



IN THIS SECTION

United's Cup comeback

11 PAGES OF SPORT

Bill Bryson's New Year diet

PAGES

Kathy Burke wants and all

PAGES

IN THE MONDAY REVIEW NETWORK



As dealing rooms across the world are preparing for the launch of the euro today a worker in Reuters Centre, London, takes information on the currency Reuters

Concern for sterling as dealing in euro starts

EUROPEAN FINANCIAL markets open for dealings in the euro for the first time today. The new era follows a frantic New Year for City bankers who worked around the clock to ensure systems were ready to cope with Europe's single currency.

But as the euro goes live, the spectre of George Soros again hangs over the pound, which has remained outside the euro-zone. The currency speculator, who made a reported \$1bn from Britain's departure from the exchange rate mechanism (ERM) in 1992, is said to be waiting in the wings ready to punish sterling. He may have to wait for his opportunity, however, as trading in the euro is expected to be thin in the early days while dealers become accustomed to the new currency.

The Bank of England claimed yesterday that the City's "conversion weekend" had been successfully completed after a marathon 100-hour effort to change over systems after markets closed on 30 December. But as Far Eastern markets opened overnight it was still unclear whether dealings in the euro would start without problems.

No bank has admitted the possibility of failure though one consultancy group warned that 40 per cent of all euro transactions could fail because of computer problems. "Few financial institutions have thought further ahead than the first day's trading," said Cap Gemini, a computer group involved in the conversion process.

But the mood in London was upbeat yesterday as tired bankers headed home for a brief rest before returning to their desks this morning. The

BY DIANE COYLE AND NIGEL COPE

Bank estimated that about 30,000 City staff had taken part in the conversion process, which has been compared to the Stock Exchange's "Big Bang" of the 1980s. It has required banks to redenominate prices, cash balances, trading positions and historical data in euros.

From today, dealers used to trading the US dollar against the German mark will trade it against the euro instead. The same will go for all of the 11 currencies that form part of the euro-zone. Sterling is not included as Britain has not yet taken the decision to join.

In an almost military manoeuvre banks cancelled staff leave, kept canteens open and block-booked local hotels. Bankers Trust said its staff had consumed 1,400 bars of chocolate, 5,000 cakes, 3,500 rashers of bacon and 2,000 sausages over the New Year period as they worked to make systems ready. Barclays Capital, a division of Barclays Bank, booked 80 rooms at the Britannia Hotel in Docklands and brought in first aid experts in case of emergencies.

David Clementi, deputy governor of the Bank of England, said: "The conversion weekend across the City of London has gone very smoothly indeed, as we expected. The City was well prepared."

Sydney was the first market to start euro trading where it opened at US\$1.1747 and was trading at 0.708 against the pound. In Tokyo the euro opened at a rate of 133.15 yen. Volumes were thin as dealers reacted with caution.

Launch of the euro, page 5

Labour is arrogant and remote, Blair warned

TONY BLAIR has been warned that many voters feel his Government may be "losing touch" with the public and becoming "arrogant" as it grows accustomed to power.

According to private polling and focus groups conducted for the Labour Party people are also becoming increasingly doubtful that the Government will fulfil its promises.

The warnings will fuel demands for a change of emphasis after the resignation of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Peter Mandelson. The calls have been led by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, who said last week ministers should "get away from rhetoric and back on to the substance of government". An internal Labour report

BY ANDREW GRICE Political Editor

sent to ministers, and seen by *The Independent*, suggests Mr Prescott's anxieties are justified.

Headed "1999 message", it insists Labour continues to enjoy a strong position with a stable poll lead over the Tories, and is seen as "strong on the economy". However, it warns that private polling found "increasing concerns about delivery" and "anxiety that Labour may be getting arrogant and might be losing touch".

Yesterday, two senior trade union leaders increased the pressure on Mr Blair by endorsing Mr Prescott's stance.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said on

GMTV the resignations of Mr Mandelson and Geoffrey Robinson as Paymaster-General "might be a price worth paying" if the Government could "refocus its philosophy, its ideology and its purposes".

Ken Jackson, leader of the normally loyal AEEU engineering union, is backing Mr Prescott's opposition to Mr Blair's plans for closer links with the Liberal Democrats.

In a speech on Saturday, Mr Jackson will say: "We supported modernisation because we wanted Labour back in power, but the agenda of proportional representation, closer links with the Liberals and breaking the link with the unions is one with which we have no sympathy at all. We are called the Labour Party for a

reason and we will fight to keep it Labour."

The strategy outlined in the report suggests Mr Prescott has won his battle for Labour to go "back to basics". The party's key message will be that the Government is fulfilling its pledges. It will highlight five key achievements: falling hospital waiting lists; a minimum wage helping two million people; £40bn extra for health and education; a record increase in child benefit; and 150,000 young people benefiting from the New Deal programme for the jobless.

Labour will seek to prevent a Tory recovery in this spring's elections to local authorities. The Scottish and Welsh assemblies and European Parliament by warning voters that William Hague's party will "put at risk"

the "better Britain" Mr Blair is building. "We are portraying the Tories as a threat," the document admits. "The Tories oppose what Labour is doing, and would try to undo it."

The strategy document points to the "key dividing lines" between the parties, saying Labour has "strong leadership" while the Tories are "still drifting and divided" and that Mr Blair's party is "for the future" while Mr Hague's is "still stuck in the past".

But the Tories went on the attack yesterday, claiming the Government was in a "state of meltdown" because of its lack of direction and the personal rivalry in the Cabinet. John Redwood, the trade and industry spokesman, accused Mr Blair of "lacking moral and political

judgement" after Downing Street said he would not order Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, to dismiss Charlie Whelan, his press secretary.

Mr Whelan denies leaking details of Mr Mandelson's £373,000 personal loan from Mr Robinson, which led to their resignations. He is due to return to work at the Treasury today, amid a cabinet battle in which some ministers want him sacked.

When Parliament returns a week today, Mr Brown will face Tory questions over his links with Mr Robinson. Yesterday, it emerged that the millionaire donated up to £200,000 to the Smith Political Economy Unit, which helped Mr Brown to draw up his policies while Labour was in opposition.

Now Clinton's DNA faces paternity test

IN A case of life imitating art imitating life, Bill Clinton's DNA was back in the news yesterday with reports that a 13-year-old Arkansas boy is waiting to find out whether what his mother has always told him is true: that he is the son of the President of the United States.

A picture of the child suggests that a relationship cannot be ruled out. The boy, Danny Williams, has been brought up by his mother, Bobbie Ann, who is black and was working as a prostitute at the time Danny was conceived.

According to the *Star*, a tabloid with a track record for Whitehouse exposés, the boy has had a sample of his DNA taken for testing. This could be matched against information

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

about the sample given by President Clinton in the Monica Lewinsky case last summer.

The Danny Williams story was given a perverse kind of credence by Joe Klein's novel, *Primary Colors*, and last year's film of the same name, whose main character is based on Mr Clinton.

Primary Colors has the rumour of an illegitimate black child surfacing in the presidential campaign, and outlines the attempts made to suppress the information. In the novel, the child's paternity is left ambiguous.

Klein - who originally denied writing the book - covered the

1991-92 campaign and many of the details described in the novel, which circulated only as rumours in the early Nineties, have turned out to be true.

The Danny Williams story - like many of the less savoury allegations about Mr Clinton's past - has been consistently shunned by the mainstream media in the United States.

The new development - the child's DNA test - was reported only by the *Star* and another tabloid, the *New York Post*. It was also reported by the Internet "gossip", Matt Drudge, whose reports on the Monica Lewinsky case were overwhelmingly vindicated.

True or false, the revival of the Danny Williams story, days before the Senate decides



Clinton: New scandal over illegitimate 'son' aged 13

whether to try Mr Clinton after his impeachment by the House of Representatives over the Lewinsky affair, was unlikely to be mere chance.

The question was whether it represented opportunism on the part of the *Star*, a last desperate attempt by Mr Clinton's enemies to smear him at a crucial stage in the impeachment process, or the truth.

US arms bill soars, page 11

The World Cup every two years?

THE PRESIDENT of football's world governing body announced a revolutionary plan to stage the World Cup every two years yesterday.

Sepp Blatter, the Fifa supremo, said the current format, with the World Cup played every four years, is out of date and threatened by a proposed European club superleague.

The controversial proposal, if approved, would stem the growing power of Uefa, Europe's governing body, and enable Fifa to cash in on one of the biggest money-makers in sport.

Blatter said: "I want a football world championship every two years. Then the national teams will get the rankings they deserve. The existing four-yearly tournament is out of date. It dates from the 1930s

BY LEN GOULD

when teams chugged from one continent to another on ships."

But Sir Bobby Charlton, an England World Cup winner, condemned the plan and said a move to a biennial tournament would be "very sad". He added: "Every four years is often enough because it's something to look forward to."

Blatter's plan would see qualification for the finals taking place in odd-numbered years. The European Championship would have to be scrapped and perhaps become a qualifying competition.

However, any changes could not come into force before 2006 - when England are bidding to stage the World Cup.

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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

Face the fat: Does your child have a weight problem?

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE: THE HEALTH PAGES EVERY TUESDAY

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCILVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITMAN SMITH



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Blair is accused as children miss class

TONY BLAIR was accused of double standards yesterday after it emerged that his three children will miss the start of the school term because of his family's New Year holiday in the Seychelles.

Their absence has embarrassed the Prime Minister because David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, launched a campaign last week to persuade parents not to take holidays during term time.

Mr Blunkett is to hold talks with teaching unions and holiday companies in response to complaints by head teachers about the number of unauthorised absences. But the initiative rebounded on the Government yesterday when two of the teaching unions criticised Mr Blair, who was also given a public rebuke by the head of the school attended by his two sons.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "It is unfortunate that the Prime Minister should be setting an

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

example of this nature, given the policy which his own Government is trying to enforce."

Mr Hart said all parents of children at schools that had a policy of no unauthorised absences for holidays had a duty to stick to the rule. "If you allow one family to get away with it, then what are the other families going to think?"

"If the Blairs had wanted to cut into the term time, then it was open to them to obtain the head's permission and get an authorised absence. The head, for all I know, might have given permission," he said.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT teachers' union, said: "This is a good example of why politicians should keep their mouths shut and not try to lecture other parents. They try to tell teachers how to run schools and end up being embarrassed themselves."

John McIntosh, headmaster at Oratory School, west



Tony Blair: Embarrassed

London, criticised what he called the "unauthorised absence" of Mr Blair's sons and said he usually wrote a stern letter to parents who allowed their children to stay away during term time.

He added: "I am really tough about this sort of thing. I say to parents they must observe what I call the three Hs - haircuts, holidays and homework."

David Willetts, the Conservative education spokesman, said Mr Blair's decision had

"cut the ground" from under Mr Blunkett's feet. "This is another piece of Labour hypocrisy in education," he said.

But Downing Street dismissed the controversy, insisting that Euan, 14 and Nicky, 13, would miss only one day's school. The Oratory does not return until tomorrow and they should be at their desks on Wednesday.

Kathryn, Mr Blair's 10-year-old daughter, is expected to miss two days at the Joan of Arc primary school in Highbury, whose pupils return today.

Downing Street denied the charge of double standards. A spokesman said: "David Blunkett was talking about families taking their entire holidays outside the school term and that children should not miss two or three weeks of school. That is different to missing one or two days."

The spokesman added that the Blair children were not absent without permission. "Mrs Blair wrote some time ago to the headmaster explaining that the children would miss a day."



High winds bring out the surfers in Lyme Regis, Dorset yesterday Richard Austin

Clerics out of touch, say firms

BY JANE HUGHES

CLAIMS BY two senior churchmen that flexible working conditions are destroying family life were vehemently denied by the business community last night.

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England and Wales, and James Jones, the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, expressed concern that anti-social shifts and long working hours posed a threat to children's futures.

In an interview yesterday with GMTV's Sunday programme, Cardinal Hume said shop staff and City traders preparing for the introduction of the euro should have refused to work over the festive period.

On the same programme Bishop Jones urged employers to take more account of the family. He said: "I think the way some people are made to work is very destructive of family life and people who lead companies ought to be more responsible."

But Ruth Lea, head of policy for the Institute of Directors, said the churchmen were "out of touch" and should accept that Britain was a multi-cultural society with many non-Christians happy to work over the festive period. "Businesses have to compete and on the whole employers will try and be accommodating but they have to be able to survive," she said.

"At the end of the day employees want their company to do well, otherwise there will be no jobs at all, and don't forget they do get paid."

Many of the big supermarkets insisted that employees had freedom of choice concerning working hours over Christmas. A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's supermarkets said that parents were given an option to work over the period. "One of the advantages of working very flexible hours is that people are given the choice to juggle their families," she said.

Leading article.
Review, page 3

Whelan backed by Beckett

A CABINET dispute deepened yesterday over whether Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, should dismiss his controversial press secretary after allegations that he played a part in the downfall of Peter Mandelson.

Margaret Beckett, Leader of the Commons, gave her public support to Mr Brown's efforts to keep Charlie Whelan despite demands by several other cabinet colleagues for him to be ousted.

A defiant Mr Whelan is due back at his Treasury desk today after a walking holiday near Inverness, Scotland. One friend said: "People have predicted his demise before and been proved wrong. He has done nothing wrong and so there are no

BY ANDREW GRICE

grounds for any action against him."

Supporters of Mr Mandelson are convinced that details of his £373,000 personal loan from Geoffrey Robinson, the former paymaster-general, were passed by Mr Whelan to Paul Routledge, author of an unauthorised biography of Mr Mandelson. Mr Routledge denied Mr Whelan was his source but revealed at the weekend that he had tried to remove the revelation from his book because he believed Downing Street would suspect Mr Whelan and demand his sacking.

Yesterday Mrs Beckett told BBC Radio 5 Live that Mr Whelan was an "excellent communicator" and suggested his enemies were seeking to make him a scapegoat for the Mandelson affair.

"I think when people get cross about some of the things that happen obviously they look for people to blame and the flak flies. But the Government as a whole works well together and that includes the Treasury team," she said.

Asked whether she was among the group of ministers demanding Mr Whelan's resignation, she replied: "I never subscribe to demanding anybody's head on a platter, particularly not when they are good at their job."

Mr Whelan's survival

prospects received a boost when Downing Street insisted his future was a matter for Mr Brown rather than Mr Blair. The Tories accused the Prime Minister of "lacking the courage to order his dismissal".

Ministers who want Mr Whelan moved are threatening to raise the issue at next week's cabinet meeting.

Some ministers believe Mr Blair wants Mr Brown to make the decision to part company with his spin-doctor, so it does not appear the decision was imposed on the Chancellor. They believe Mr Whelan will keep his job in the short term, but will switch to another post after the dust has settled on Mr Mandelson's resignation.

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Two die as gales sweep in

TWO PEOPLE died yesterday as the storms that have wreaked havoc over the holiday period continued to batter much of southern England.

A pensioner died in West Sussex when he was struck by a tree falling from a tree and another man was killed by storm debris in Somerset.

Robert Bridger, 70, died instantly outside his home in Bolney, West Sussex, in front of his 11-year-old grandson.

A police spokesman said: "A large branch came down and struck Mr Bridger on the head."

BY LOUISE JURY

He then became trapped underneath it."

The second of yesterday's storm victims died when he was apparently struck by parts of a tin roof blown off a building as he walked along a canal path in Bridgwater, Somerset. Police were not naming the 51-year-old man until his relatives had been contacted.

In Hampshire, a woman was flown to hospital by coastguard helicopter after being injured by a falling tree, while another

woman had a lucky escape in Devon when a tree crushed her car seconds after she got out of it.

In Fife near Bristol, villagers found themselves under three feet of water after Environment Agency staff forgot to close the gates on a new £5m flood defence system.

The rain is expected to clear gradually today but Northern England and Northern Ireland still face a buffeting from gales and avalanche warnings remain in force in the Scottish Highlands.

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BRITAIN TODAY

KEY: 14 Temperature, °C; 20 Wind speed, mph and direction

MOON today

General situation: Overnight rain in England and Wales will become confined to the southern counties by the afternoon. As the rain clears it will become fresher with sunny breaks and showers. Northern England and N. Ireland will be very windy with gales and showers, heavy at times, the wind easing later. The wind will also rise to gale force in southern Scotland with some frequent, heavy showers.

London, E Angles: Morning rain will clear to leave it fresher with some sunny spells. A strong south-west wind later moderate. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).

Cent S, SW & SE Angles: Mostly cloudy with drizzly rain at times. A strong south-west wind later moderate. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

E Angles, Midlands: Rain clearing then fresher with sunny spells and scattered showers. A strong south-west wind later moderate. Max temp 11-14C (52-57F).

Channel Is: Overcast and misty with fog patches and drizzly rain. A moderate to strong south-west wind. Max temp 12-13C (54-55F).

Cent N, NE & NW Angles, Lakes Dist, Isle of Man, N Wales: Windy with heavy showers. A gale force south-west wind. Max temp 8-11C (46-51F).

W Scotland, N Ireland: Sunny spells and showers. A strong south to south-west wind. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

N Wales: Rain then showers. A moderate, variable wind. Max temp 6-7C (43-45F).

OUTLOOK

It will become very mild over England and Wales on both Tuesday and Wednesday, but it will be rather cloudy with rain at times. Scotland and Northern Ireland will be fresher, but brighter with sun and showers.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Cambridge Road A10 between Foston and M11. Resurfacing and bridge maintenance work at Sharnbrook. Until 14th February. Bristol: M5 J16-19. Major roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Birmingham: A49 between Uxbridge and M4 J24. Roadworks. Until 11th January. Lancashire: M6 between J27 Sandbach and J28 Lifford. Roadworks continue and a 50mph speed limit either side of Chorley. Richard Services. Until 15th February.

Greater Manchester: A57. Narrow lanes Manchester-bound, due to Metropolitan construction work. Until 28th February. South Yorkshire: M1 between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6108) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway reduced to 2 lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Durham and Galilee: A74 between Buxton and J18 Arncliffe. Major roadworks. Until 31st January. AA Roadwatcher Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belfast 4.12pm to 8.45am
Birmingham 4.07pm to 8.17am
Bristol 4.15pm to 8.15am
Glasgow 3.57pm to 8.46am
London 4.05pm to 8.06am
Manchester 4.03pm to 8.24am
Newcastle 3.52pm to 8.30am

HIGH TIDES

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
Ayr	6.33	6.7	7.12	6.7
Cork	7.15	5.5	7.43	5.2
Dover	12.05	6.8	12.21	6.7
Dun Laoghaire	12.34	4.3	12.53	4.4
Falmouth	6.46	5.3	7.14	5.0
Greenock	1.30	3.4	1.45	3.8
Hull	12.53	4.1	1.15	4.1
Holyhead	11.41	5.3	7.51	8.9
Hull (Albert Dock)	7.38	6.7	7.51	8.9
King's Lynn	3.48	5.7	4.09	5.7
Lerwick	12.17	9.6	12.37	9.7
Liverpool	12.34	6.2	7.58	6.9
Millford Haven	6.25	7.2	6.50	6.9
Newport	8.18	2.3	8.51	2.0
Portsmouth	12.21	4.7	12.34	4.8
Portsmouth	8.24	5.1	8.48	4.9
Scarborough	5.25	5.9	5.36	5.9
Wick	12.27	3.6	12.42	3.8

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

Location	NO ₂	SO ₂
London	Good	Good
S England	Good	Good
Wales	Good	Good
C England	Good	Good
N England	Good	Good
Scotland	Good	Good
N Ireland	Good	Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 08.06
Sun sets: 16.05
Moon rises: 19.11
Moon sets: 05.32
Last quarter: Jan 5th

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts dial 0891 5009 followed by the two digits for your area. Source: The Met Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT)

RAIN OR SHINE...

BAD WEATHER eroded the walls of a waste reservoir near Hueva in southern Spain last week, allowing about 50,000 litres of by-products from a fertiliser factory to spill into surrounding marshland.

Environmentalists immediately drew comparisons with April's spill of 5bn litres of toxic waste from the nearby Aznalcollar mine reservoir that threatened the Doñana Park - one of Europe's most renowned nature reserves.

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

KEY: 1024 Isobars; air pressure in millibars; 1008 Low; 1016 High; 1024 High; 1032 High; 1040 High; 1048 High; 1056 High; 1064 High; 1072 High; 1080 High; 1088 High; 1096 High; 1104 High; 1112 High; 1120 High; 1128 High; 1136 High; 1144 High; 1152 High; 1160 High; 1168 High; 1176 High; 1184 High; 1192 High; 1200 High; 1208 High; 1216 High; 1224 High; 1232 High; 1240 High; 1248 High; 1256 High; 1264 High; 1272 High; 1280 High; 1288 High; 1296 High; 1304 High; 1312 High; 1320 High; 1328 High; 1336 High; 1344 High; 1352 High; 1360 High; 1368 High; 1376 High; 1384 High; 1392 High; 1400 High; 1408 High; 1416 High; 1424 High; 1432 High; 1440 High; 1448 High; 1456 High; 1464 High; 1472 High; 1480 High; 1488 High; 1496 High; 1504 High; 1512 High; 1520 High; 1528 High; 1536 High; 1544 High; 1552 High; 1560 High; 1568 High; 1576 High; 1584 High; 1592 High; 1600 High; 1608 High; 1616 High; 1624 High; 1632 High; 1640 High; 1648 High; 1656 High; 1664 High; 1672 High; 1680 High; 1688 High; 1696 High; 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Transfer fever grips publishers as Hornby joins Penguin for £2m

BY STEVE BOGGAN
AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

THE PUBLISHING industry was bracing itself for a round of football-style transfers yesterday amid reports that Nick Hornby, the author of *Fever Pitch*, had switched camps for a fee of £2m.

In moves that bore echoes of the much-hyped £500,000 received by Martin Amis for his book, *The Information* - which has so far failed to recoup the outlay - Hornby became the latest in a string of authors to join the millionaires' club for novels that have not yet been written.

The former teacher, whose other books, *High Fidelity* and *About a Boy*, have also become bestsellers, is understood to have been poached from Gollancz by Penguin in a deal that will see him deliver two more books in the first couple of years of the next century.

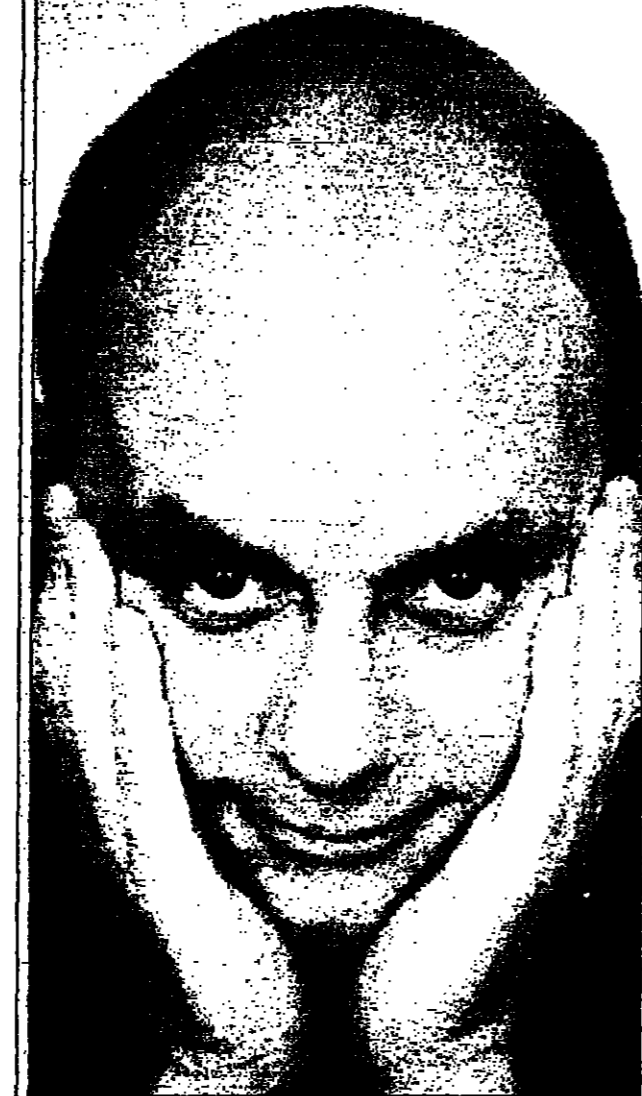
Hornby's track record - sales of 700,000 paperback copies of his first two novels and 110,000 hardback copies of his third - has convinced Penguin that he is worth the money. But industry watchers predicted the deal could have a knock-on effect among poorer writers as they are squeezed out of the limelight by better-established authors who believe they can earn more by switching publishers.

Already this year, Sue Townsend, creator of *Adrian Mole*, has moved from Methuen after 17 years, also to Penguin, and Transworld has signed up Ben Elton, author of *Popcorn*, in a £1.5m deal that took him from Simon & Schuster.

The big-money bidding has left some writers concerned that the publishing houses are spending too much money on too few authors.

"What concerns me is that in the past, when authors have not recouped the money spent on them, there has been evidence a while later of job losses in the industry - and it isn't the people at the top who lose their jobs," said A S (Antonia) Bayat, the Booker Prize-winning novelist.

"Nick Hornby seems to be one of the few people who can make the money back, so he



Nick Hornby, whose top-selling books include 'Fever Pitch' and 'High Fidelity', will have to deliver two new titles in the next few years under the Penguin publishing deal

probably deserves whatever he can get. The deals that really concern me are the advances given to some authors on the strength of a 2,000-word outline.

"When they don't work, the publishing houses spend all their time and money hyping them in order to achieve sales. When that happens, perfectly good authors on their third or fourth book are ignored and don't get the exposure they deserve."

Last year, two publishing houses were bidding up to

£800,000 for the rights to publish the first two - unwritten - books by Amy Jenkins, creator of the television series *This Life*. All they had seen was a 2,000-word first chapter and an accompanying outline.

Similarly, the amounts bid for some first and second novels from unproven writers send chills down the spine of some industry-watchers. Robert Mawson, a former pilot, was given a £420,000 advance for *The Lazarus Child* after a bidding war. But the story of a couple's attempts to bring their

child out of a coma sold disappointingly in hardback and will have to be hyped again when the paperback comes out in the spring if it is to recoup costs.

Last year Richard Mason, a 20-year-old Oxford undergraduate, attracted £200,000 bids for his first two novels - having written only one of them, *The Drowning People*, when he was 18.

That, alongside the £15m Jeffrey Archer tied up in a three-book deal three years ago, makes Amis's £500,000 advance for *The Information* and a book of short stories - after

an acclaimed career spanning more than two decades - look positively frugal. (Amis has quietly returned to Random House in a £1m four-book deal.)

But the sums still worry the likes of Martyn Goff, administrator of the Booker Prize.

"In the case of the bigger publishing houses, I believe many of these advances are given simply to enhance their image and attract more agents and their authors," he said. "It is like a loss-leader and I suspect more don't recoup the outlay than do recoup it."

"The effect on other authors is quite subtle. When it comes to selling these titles in spring and early autumn, all the marketing attention is devoted to absurdly puffed up efforts on them, at the expense of perfectly good books by good authors who deserve more attention."

Sometimes, however, gambles work. Nicholas Evans's book, *The Horse Whisperer*, attracted frenzied bidding over film rights even before it was written. Eventually, he received £2.3m for US publication rights and £350,000 from Transworld

to publish in the UK. And now that Robert Redford has made that film, the book is selling well.

When a £250,000 advance was given to Vikram Seth for his first novel, *A Suitable Boy*, many thought the sum was insane. But the book went on to sell more than 120,000 hardback copies in the UK alone and hundreds of thousands more in paperback worldwide.

Nicholas Clee, deputy editor of *The Bookseller*, believes the Hornby deal is a good one for Penguin and not a bad one for the rest of the industry. "If you

consider the sales of his other novels and the fact that they are transferring well to the screen, I can't imagine any accountant saying £2m wasn't a good investment," he said.

Besides, as Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare might say, what's £2m anyway?

Especially when you see the advances earned by America's heavyweights: Stephen King, £23m for three books; Barbara Taylor Bradford, £17m for three; and John Grisham, rumoured in the business to be able to beat even King.

NOT A PENNY MORE, NOT A PENNY LESS ... HOW PUBLISHERS WOO THEIR WRITERS WITH ADVANCES

	JEFFREY ARCHER	BEN ELTON	MARTIN AMIS	ROBERT MAWSON	ARUNDHATI ROY	SEBASTIAN FAULKS
DEAL	£15m, 1995	£1.1m, 1998	£500,000, 1995	£420,000, 1997	£160,000, 1997	£25,000, 1994
PUBLISHER	Three-book deal with Rupert Murdoch's HarperCollins.	Left Simon & Schuster to sign a two-book deal with Transworld.	From Jonathan Cape to HarperCollins.	From Transworld when Mawson was unknown 41-year-old.	HarperCollins paid money for rights to her first novel.	Tiny advance from Vintage.
FAMOUS TITLE	<i>The Fourth Estate</i>	<i>Blast from the Past</i>	<i>The Information</i>	<i>The Lazarus Child</i>	<i>The God of Small Things</i>	<i>Birdsong</i>
PLOT	Fable about two media tycoons loosely based on Robert Maxwell and Rupert Murdoch.	The past blasts into the form of Jack Kent, a US army general and would-be president.	Brooding novel of bookish rivalry in which strangely familiar author demands big advance from his publisher.	An English couple try to bring their daughter out of a coma.	Lyrical tragic-comedy set around a pickle factory in Kerala, southern India.	First World War love story of guy gets girl, guy gets shell shock.
HIT/MISS	Like a string of previous novels including <i>Kane and Abel</i> and <i>Matter of Honour</i> The <i>Eleventh Commandment</i> "thriller" was among the best-selling hardbacks last year. Sales boosted by glittering reviews from newspapers in the Murdoch stable.	The author of <i>Popcorn</i> , Stark and Gridlock goes from strength to strength. <i>Blast from the Past</i> was among the best sellers over Christmas. First made his name as TV scriptwriter. Wrote hugely successful <i>Blackadder</i> series for BBC.	Regarded in the publishing world as a commercial fiasco, with sales not sufficient to cover the advance. However, it continues to sell slowly and looks like a bargain compared with recent deals. Amis rejoined Random House for £1m.	Hard-back sales regarded as disappointing. Paperback due to be hyped in the spring in desperate bid to breathe life back into the novel.	Sales doubled after she won the Booker prize. The book shot up the best seller lists in India, Australia and Britain, earning in excess of £1m in advance rights sales.	Despite small amount of cash up front, it turned into one of the best-selling novels of the 1990s, with more than 500,000 sold. Known in the industry not as <i>Birdsong</i> but as "Going for a song".

Boy of 12 shoots himself in Russian roulette game

A 12-YEAR-OLD boy put a .38 revolver to his temple and shot himself in the head during what police believe was a game of Russian roulette, prompted by boredom and, possibly, a violent video.

Detectives in Florida said Timothy Jamel Hadley, who later died from his injuries, and his friend Anthony Murphy, 15, were watching the 1994 film *Menace II Society* - about gangs in the Watts area of Los Angeles - at 11pm on New Year's Day. Timothy then apparently decided to play Russian roulette with a stolen .38 Smith and Wesson pistol while his mother, Genelle Hadley, was visiting a neighbour.

Timothy and Anthony, described by police as an often homeless youth from a broken home, may have watched the

film because a youth centre they went to on Friday night to play pool had closed down because it could not afford to pay its electricity bill.

They suspect that the boys had stolen the revolver and a powerful 357 magnum automatic pistol in robberies they carried out because they were bored.

Timothy shot himself in the right temple at his home near the Indian river, which separates the working-class Palm Bay neighbourhood from the popular beaches of the Melbourne area.

His friend ran to a nearby house, where Timothy's uncle called the emergency services. The boy was rushed to the Holmes Regional Medical Cen-

tre in Melbourne, where he died late on Saturday. Anthony then fled, apparently fearing that he would be blamed for his friend's death, and spent the night terrified in a shed. He later told his story to two cousins, who took him to police.

The police interviewed Murphy, whose mother had died recently and whose father is in jail, but said that he was not a suspect.

"He was terrified," one of his cousins said. "He was in shock. This was his best friend who died." Police said that the boy co-operated with them. "He was very remorseful," said a detective.

"We believe it was Russian roulette because it had all the signs," said George Santiago, a Palm Bay detective. "There had only been one bullet in the

chamber and he was shot in the right temple. It looks as though he spun the chamber, put it to his head and happened on the single bullet. We believe it was an accidental death."

Police said that they were studying the film *Menace II Society* to see if any particular scene may have given Timothy the idea of playing Russian roulette. It shows young people living amid violence and dealing in drugs in Los Angeles' Watts area, scene of serious rioting in the past.

A spokesman for the Light of the Lord Ministries recreation centre, which the two boys had found closed on Friday night, said that it would be renamed after Timothy Hadley when it reopened. Police also said his family had donated his organs for transplant.

Virgin train feels the strain

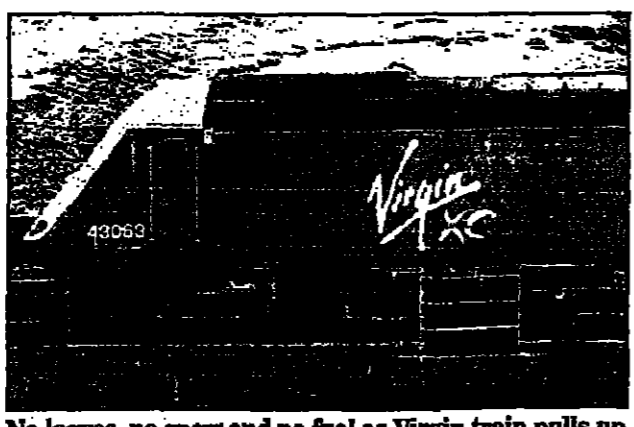
RAILWAY PASSENGERS might be forgiven for thinking they had heard every excuse in the book. But even the most battle-weary traveller on the Newcastle upon Tyne to Bristol service was stunned when their train ran out of fuel five miles outside Birmingham.

In what experts described as an unprecedented breakdown, the bizarre diesel deficiency left travellers two hours late into Birmingham New Street.

John Parker, 23, who boarded the train in Doncaster, said: "I thought I had heard all the excuses about useless trains, but apparently not."

"We've had leaves on the line and the wrong type of snow, but simply running out of fuel is the craziest yet. I couldn't believe my ears when we were told the problem."

According to passengers, an engineer sent to the rescue



walked through the carriages and jokingly asked if they knew where to find the nearest petrol station.

A spokesman for Virgin Trains said he could "honestly not remember it ever happening before". He said the problem arose after one of the two engines powering the train developed a fault and, as programmed, shut down.

The trains are designed to run on only one engine - or "power car" in railway jargon - but doing so affects the fuel consumption.

The train ground to a halt just after passing Tamworth in Staffordshire and another diesel engine had to be sent to the rescue.

The spokesman said normally there was "always"

enough fuel for a train to complete a journey, even on one engine. But he added: "Richard Branson said there would be problems when he took over the franchise in 1997."

"The rolling stock is 15 to 20 years old in this case. We are holding together with what we've got but we have more than £1bn new trains on order."

They were also spending about £1m on each existing train to make them as reliable as possible, he said.

Michael Harris, editor of *Railway World* magazine, confirmed that running out of fuel really was a novelty in terms of railway excuses.

"It's almost unheard of for a train to run out of fuel as they carry up to 2,000 gallons," he said. "But railway operators refill trains as rarely as possible. This is because any train travelling to the refuelling depot is not carrying passengers and so not making money."

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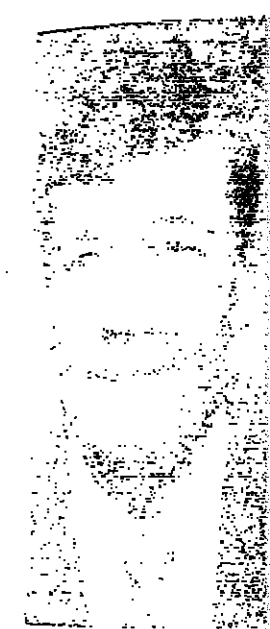
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Our 0% finance offer applies to all Polos. Unlike a Polo, though, it isn't designed to run indefinitely. March 31st, 1999 is the deadline. Meantime, here's something rarely associated with Volkswagen. A breakdown. Typical example: Polo 1.0L 3-door. Cash price (on the road)*: £8,290.00. 50% deposit: £4,145.00. Finance charges: £0. **APR: 0%**. 12 monthly repayments: £345.42. Total amount payable: £8,290.00. Other credit facilities are also available. What better way to put your finances into good running order?



*Written quotations available on request from Volkswagen Finance. Offer applies from 4th December 1998 and is applicable to all Polo models ordered by 31st March, 1999. Offer excludes contract hire, leasing companies and national accounts. Cash price, correct at time of going to press. Includes number plate, delivery and road fund licence. Credit subject to status. Indemnities may be required. Volkswagen Finance is a trading name of Volkswagen Financial Services (UK) Ltd, Brunswick Court, Bletchlands, Milton Keynes, Bucks MK14 5LP.

Conversion a success, say City banks

AS THE multi-coloured screens of the City's dealing rooms light up today for their first trading in the euro there can be no excuses. Computer technicians worked around the clock over the New Year break to ensure that all support systems are spot on for the start of trading this morning.

Now it is time for those on the trading floor to test their mettle against a new environment. Currency abbreviations that they have been using for decades to express rapid-fire trading positions have changed overnight. And while Britain sticks to pounds and pence, for now, even the Bank of England is gearing up for the new currency. It has printed more than £100m of euro bank notes, although they are specimens only and will be destroyed.

Nick Donnelly, the director of the euro conversion project at Barclay's Capital, based at Canary Wharf, said: "Traders are pretty quick-witted people, but this is a complete paradigm shift."

The men who do the deals, and they are nearly all men, are

BY SARAH WILSON
AND NICHOLAS SCHOON

used to quoting currencies against sterling. Now the euro has become the main currency to quote against. If they falter for a split second and misquote a deal, millions of pounds could be lost.

Mitch Shivers, the global head of EMU preparations at the US bank, Merrill Lynch, found himself getting quite emotional when the 11 currencies joining monetary union converted to the euro on New Year's Eve. "There was a sense of history taking place as the clock struck twelve in the various EMU participating nations," he said.

As far as business is concerned, those 11 currencies are now finished. Ordinary people will still use guineas and francs until the euro notes and coins come into circulation in three years. But anyone setting up a business or speculating on the currency markets will make their deals in euros.

A spokesman for NatWest Bank said: "Today will be the

acid test but we believe everything will go swimmingly."

The opening of the Tokyo stock market in the early hours saw the first significant trades. But it was not until the London futures market opened at 7.30am that the fun really started. The City remains one of the most important financial centres in the world, with 500 international banks based there. Almost a third of the world's foreign exchange deals are made in London, six times more than in Germany's financial capital, Frankfurt.

The euro will also affect share dealing. All the stock markets in the 11 European countries joining the single currency will from now on list all company share prices in euros. Exchange rates for the 11 currencies were not fixed until Thursday, so London institutions spent the first days of 1999 redenominating bonds and converting currency balances to euros. The City hummed with the efforts of thousands of financial workers getting their companies and computers ready. By yesterday, confident



Foreign exchange dealers in Sydney were among the first in the world to trade in the euro, starting at 5am local time today

Reuters

statements began to emerge from the financial labyrinth.

"We're very pleased," said Keith Hamilton of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson investment bank. "It's been a long, long weekend; lots of bleary-eyed

people around, but we're ready."

David Clementi, deputy governor of the Bank of England, said: "All this work has been as, or more, complicated in London than in the euro area itself be-

cause of the scale of international currency and securities business conducted by major firms active here."

The conversion has been one of the largest logistical operations ever undertaken in

the London market, involving an estimated 30,000 staff.

Some analysts warned that sterling could be in for a bumpy ride during this week, but predicted that currency fluctuations could bed down

and lead to a weaker pound. That would bring relief to British exporters whose goods would be easier to sell, but would be bad news for holiday-makers who would get less abroad for their sterling.

Owen joins forces with the 'No' campaigns

BY STEVE BOGGAN

MILLIONS OF British households are being sent Eurosceptic leaflets by a millionaire Yorkshireman who believes British democracy is under threat.

Paul Sykes, who is rumoured to be worth more than £250m, is underwriting a £20m campaign to coincide with the launch of the single currency in 11 European countries.

His campaign was given extra impetus yesterday when Lord Owen, the former Labour foreign secretary, said that he, too, would be opposing the single currency. "People aren't stupid - they know when they are being sold a pig in a poke,"

Lord Owen said. "Effectively this is a big step towards greater integration."

Lord Owen's opposition to the euro will have delighted Mr Sykes. As a candidate for the Face of 1999, the 55-year-old businessman cuts an unlikely figure - but from this week, he is likely to become as well-known as the leaders of Britain's main political parties.

Mr Sykes, best known for financing Meadowhall shopping centre, near Sheffield, has become the front man for the Democracy Movement, a campaign group dedicated to "ed-

ucating" the public about the dangers of European monetary union in advance of the promised - but as yet undated - referendum on whether Britain should join.

In tandem with the remaining members of James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, Mr Sykes began his campaign on 1 January, with leaflets being sent to homes, businesses and public buildings, predicting political and democratic meltdown in the wake of monetary union.

"This is the single most important issue for Britain this century, but people don't seem to realise how close we are to

giving up our democratic freedom," Mr Sykes said. "If you give up control of your interest and exchange rates and hand over your gold reserves to unelected bodies in Brussels and Frankfurt, then you have given up control over your country's right to democratic self-determination. I can't stand by and watch that happen."

Mr Sykes has mixed feelings about his imminent brush with fame. A neat, diminutive and softly spoken man with four children, he says he is on the look-out for someone else to be the standard-bearer. "But not a politician," he insists. "This movement is not about politics

or being elected. It is simply about giving people the facts."

The son of a miner in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, Mr Sykes made his money the hard way. At the age of 16 he was washing bottles and fitting tyres. By 18 he was working as a mechanic, and in his early twenties he was breaking up old buses for scrap metal, a business that earned him his own Rolls-Royce by the age of 24.

He went on to export reconditioned bus parts and then to buy and lease new buses and coaches. Property development deals increased his wealth. More recently he bought into - and sold out of - an Internet

business, a move that earned him £75m.

"Now it looks as though this [campaign] is going to take up all my time," he said. "I don't want to have to get into the limelight, but someone has to warn the British people about what is going on."

"I have paid for two surveys, which both showed that over 90 per cent of the public feel they aren't being given enough information about the single currency."

"Many seem to think the euro is just something they will buy to go on holiday - they don't realise that it must inevitably lead to political union

and a federal Europe. And if you take away people's rights to vote on how their money is spent and how they are taxed, then it leaves a huge void in our democratic system."

Mr Sykes was a Conservative for 27 years - until the last election, when he became disillusioned with John Major's "wait and see" approach to monetary union.

Then, he spent more than £2m on anti-EMU advertising and on backing more than 200 Tory MPs who promised to campaign on a Eurosceptic platform.

This time, he is prepared to spend much more.



Sykes: "Someone has to warn the British people"

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British Gas

Urgent meningitis vaccinations for hundreds after pupils die

HUNDREDS OF schoolchildren are to be vaccinated against meningitis today amid fears of an outbreak of the disease, which claimed the lives of two teenagers on New Year's Eve.

Pupils at Wath Comprehensive School in Wath-on-Dearne, South Yorkshire, were given antibiotics as a precautionary measure yesterday after the deaths of two fellow pupils, Claire Wilkinson, 14, and Adam Rawson, 15, who died within 24 hours of first showing symptoms.

An immunisation programme at the school, which has 1,700 pupils, will start today and continue tomorrow, when pupils will be given injections as a further precaution. The school, once attended by William Hague, leader of the Conservative Party, will be closed for lessons until Wednesday at the earliest.

The school's head teacher, Robert Godber, described the two victims as "lively and happy" teenagers who contributed greatly to school life. He said the school was shocked by what had happened and felt deeply for the victims' families.

"We will give whatever support we can, both to them and to many others who will be anxious at this time," he said.

Friends of the two victims were in a subdued mood yesterday as they waited in the school hall to be given antibiotics.

Richard Kinsella, 15, from Wath, said he was shocked and frightened by the news. "I never thought it was something that could happen here," he said. His friend, Andrew Bunker, 15, added: "It scared me but we have been told what to look out for and we will be checking for symptoms."

There was controversy over the hospital treatment of one of the pupils who died. Claire Wilkinson's mother complained that her daughter had been left

BY ESTHER LEACH
AND LINUS GREGORIADIS

for hours on a hospital trolley after a specialist unit at a nearby hospital said that it had no beds available.

Claire Wilkinson was transferred to the Queen's Medical Centre, 40 miles away in Nottingham, nearly seven hours after she was first admitted to hospital on Wednesday.

Rotherham General Hospital yesterday defended its decision to move the teenager to the Nottingham hospital, which has a paediatric intensive care unit. A spokesman said: "It was decided that she needed specialist paediatric intensive care. She was taken to Nottingham because there were no beds at the unit in Sheffield six miles away."

It emerged that there had been three other cases of meningitis in the Rotherham area within the last week, but Rotherham Health Authority dismissed fears of an epidemic. Tim Patterson, director of public health, said: "During the week we had three other cases but we don't think they were related. This number of cases is not unexpected at this time of year."

Dr Patterson added that he did not think that the school in Wath was the source of the outbreak. "We believe the victims contracted the disease as a result of socialising over the Christmas period," he said.

More than 2,000 schoolchildren in Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, will be given antibiotics and vaccinations against meningitis this week after the death of a 12-year-old girl. Six children from Tyne and Wear have been infected by the bacteria over the past 10 weeks. Dr Bashir Malik, consultant in public health for Gateshead Health Authority, urged parents not to panic and said the vaccination programme was a purely preventive measure.



Pupils and their parents leaving Wath Comprehensive School yesterday after being given antibiotics against meningitis

John Furlong

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON A DEADLY DISEASE

What is meningitis?

Meningitis is an inflammation of the meninges, the membranes that cover the brain. It can be caused by bacteria or viruses.

How dangerous is it?

Although the more common viral form is very debilitating, only the bacterial form is life-threatening. Meningococcal

meningitis, the most common bacterial strain, can be deadly, especially when it leads to septicaemia. About one in 10 of all meningitis victims dies. A further 7 per cent are left handicapped. Early diagnosis is crucial because of the speed at which the disease strikes.

Where does it come from? About a quarter of young

adults carry meningococcal bacteria in their throats.

What are the symptoms?

Initially like flu. Sufferers often have a severe headache, a stiff neck and a temperature. Vomiting, intolerance to bright lights, back and joint pains and drowsiness or confusion are also symptoms.

A bruise-like rash is indicative of septicaemia,

which causes half of all deaths. A test against the disease involves pressing a glass against the rash. If it remains visible, medical advice should be sought immediately.

How common is the disease?

Last year there were about 2,600 cases, resulting in about 270 deaths. In the past 10 years, the number

of cases in Britain has doubled, with more than 200 deaths annually.

When are people most at risk?

There is a big increase in meningitis cases in November and December because of increased social interaction, according to the National Meningitis Trust.

LINUS GREGORIADIS

Ofsted surveys 'bad for schools'

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

INSPECTIONS BY the Office for Standards in Education do not improve schools, according to a survey of head teachers published today.

The survey by the National Union of Teachers of 1,250 heads found that only one in five felt that inspections led directly to improvement. On the contrary, staff lost motivation and were so tired that pupils' learning suffered.

The criticisms are the latest in a series from heads and teachers as the Commons Education and Employment Committee continues its investigation into Ofsted.

One head said: "Although our report was relatively good, it took my staff eight months to start operating again at a normal level. This was to the detriment of their classes."

Another said: "Staff were under stress in the period leading up to the inspection, which did nothing to improve teaching, and the focus of the school shifted away from our work with the children towards paperwork and policy documents."

A third said that teachers who made an effort and "stage-managed" the event did well. Some good teachers, on the other hand, who allowed inspectors to take them as they found them, did not do well.

Heads were evenly divided on whether inspectors made fair and accurate judgements and on whether they took sufficient account of pupils' backgrounds and schools' histories.

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said: "The extra stress and workload created by Ofsted inspections might be justified if the process and outcomes were valued by teachers and led to school improvement. But head and deputy head teachers clearly do not believe that is the case."

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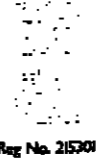
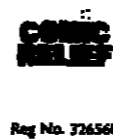
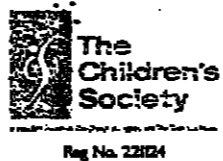
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CHILDREN'S PROMISE
THE MILLENNIUM FINAL HOUR APPEAL



Undercover monitors to check on GPs

DOCTORS FACE having their work secretly monitored under controversial proposals to measure their performance.

The use of "undercover" monitors to carry out random checks on GPs and specialists is one option under consideration as the medical profession moves to tighten self-regulation. Another possibility is the introduction of formal tests to assess doctors' knowledge of medical developments.

The General Medical Council (GMC) is considering whether to introduce five yearly performance checks for every doctor, a move which could be approved at its conference next month.

Its attempts to restore public confidence in the profession without giving up doctors' rights of self-regulation follow the outcry over the deaths of 29 children in the Bristol heart surgery disaster.

Last June, Bristol surgeons James Wisheart and Janardan Dhasmana, and the former chief executive of their governing NHS Trust, John Roylance, were found guilty of serious professional misconduct for allowing operations

BY JANE HUGHES

on babies to continue despite evidence of the high death rate.

However, while the need for more rigorous monitoring is widely recognised, many fear that undercover assessment would be a step too far.

Jean Robinson, a former lay member of the GMC and visiting professor at Ulster University's health sciences department, said such a system would be open to abuse.

"I am not in favour of subterfuge, it fosters an atmosphere of fear and suspicion in a place where team work is essential," she said.

"It should be perfectly possible to monitor a doctor's work openly and honestly and above board. If there is a suspicion that there is a problem with their standard of work you present them with the information and discuss it."

Professor Robinson said it was wrong for doctors to be registered for life and called for regular assessments. She also wanted more attention to be paid to patients' experiences. "There are doctors who publish impressive papers but if you look

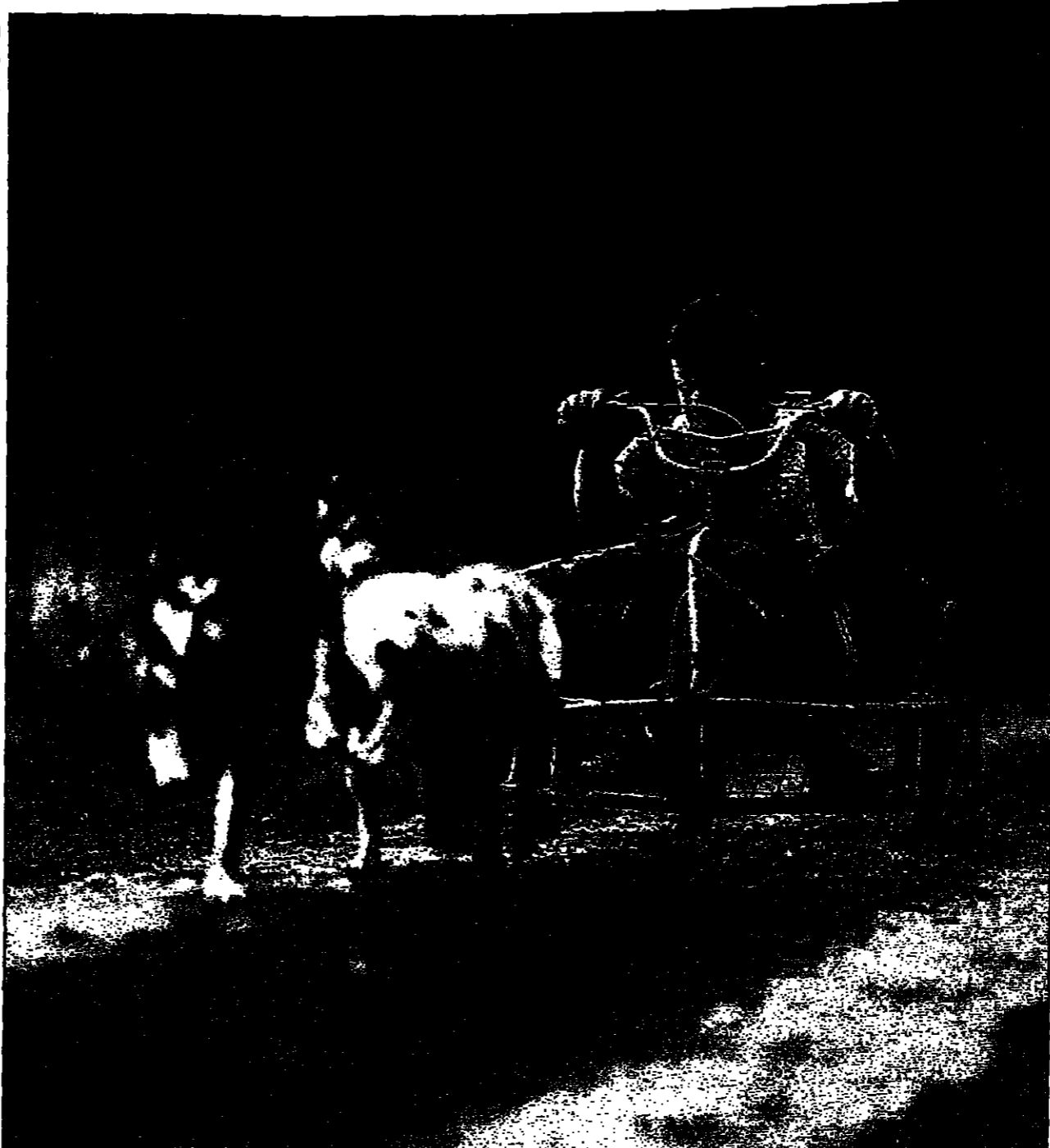
at the kind of effect they have on their patients, they are not very impressive at all," she said.

Other critics of the GMC proposals have called for an independent body to be set up to monitor the profession. A spokesman for the BMA said the need for a re-validation scheme had been accepted and the details would be discussed at the conference next month, although it would be two years before any changes could be introduced.

Late last year, despite pressure from the Department of Health for more external checks and balances, the GMC pulled back from ordering regular competence checks on senior doctors. However, its members fear that if the profession is not seen to be taking the lead in monitoring itself, new systems will be imposed by the Government.

In June, the GMC updated its guide, "Maintaining Good Medical Practice", which spells out the duty on doctors to report colleagues who put patients at risk.

Following the Bristol inquiry, the Senate of Surgery of Great Britain and Ireland also said that all consultant surgeons should be subject to regular checks.



John Liddle racing yesterday over Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, in the British Sled Dog championships. Sixty competitors with teams of two to six dogs reached 30mph over courses of up to six miles
Andrew Fox

IN BRIEF

Doubts over boy heroin addict

DOUBT WAS cast last night over reports that a boy aged eight was being treated for heroin addiction in East Yorkshire. Dr Paul Hewish, who runs the main treatment service for addicts in Goole, where the boy allegedly lives, has spoken to every GP in the town and no one had heard of him.

'Seat-belts for dogs' campaign

RUTH HAMILTON, an animal-loving author, is writing to Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, demanding it be made compulsory for dogs in cars to wear a seat-belt. Ms Hamilton, 58, from Crosby, Merseyside, has the backing of the RSPCA and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

Pilot receives bravery award

A ROYAL NAVY pilot received the Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air after saving his Sea Harrier when its canopy shattered 40,000ft above the Gulf of Aden. Despite rapid decompression and flying debris, Lieutenant Martin London, based in Yeovilton, descended 37,000ft in 30 seconds.

Man charged in kidnapping case

A MAN was charged with kidnapping and false imprisonment yesterday after the alleged abduction of a woman. The 39-year-old unemployed man from Bath was arrested after Katey Caven, 38, was seen knocking on the window of a flat in Brixton, south London, early on Saturday morning.

Three escape plane crash

THREE MEN survived when their light aircraft crashed on a golf course near Dublin. Firefighters freed the men from the wreckage after the aircraft came down on the fairway of the 15th hole at Lucan Golf Club. They were taken to Blanchardstown hospital but their injuries were not life-threatening.

Murder arrest

POLICE ARRESTED a man yesterday in connection with the murder of a barmaid found dead after a New Year's Eve party. Kerry Scott, 24, was last seen walking home from a pub in Waterlooville, Hampshire.

£9.3m winner

ONE TICKET won Saturday's £9.3m National Lottery draw with the numbers 4, 31, 33, 38, 41 and 46. Sixteen tickets with five numbers and the bonus, 22, each won £178,943.

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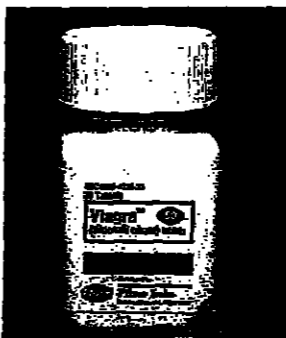
VIAGRA CORNER

DISPATCHES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF MEDICINE

A RIVAL to Viagra may be launched in Britain in the next few months. The manufacturer of Vasomax claims its drug begins to work after half an hour, compared with Viagra's one hour start-up time. US pharmaceutical giant Schering Plough is hopeful that the Government's Medicines Control Agency will award a licence to market Vasomax by April.

The drug has already been on sale in Mexico for three months, having undergone successful clinical trials there. The manufacturer is also seeking permission to market the drug in America.

Both drugs help impotent men to achieve and sustain erections, but they work in different ways. Viagra acts on an enzyme that regulates blood flow to the penis. Vasomax, an alpha blocker, stops nerve impulses that control the tiny muscles surrounding blood



vessels in the erectile tissue. Schering Plough says that its product has another advantage over Viagra - it can be used by men who take nitrate drugs for angina and heart conditions.

The launch of the new drug seems unlikely to bring down the high cost of restoring potency - at least for the time being. Vasomax is expected to cost £4-£5 for each 40 milligram tablet, while Viagra sells for £4.84 per tablet.

NICK SCROON



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Unknown who may be the political sensation of 1999



Caroline Lucas (above) and the seats the party could win John Lawrence

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

SHE IS 38. She is married with two children. She is unknown to the general public. And in just over five months, she may be one of the most famous politicians in Britain. Caroline Lucas stands an excellent chance of becoming the first British Green Party member to win a seat in the elections to the European Parliament.

The introduction of proportional representation in the June poll means that after 25 years as the Cinderella of British politics, the Greens could at last go to the political ball in the assemblies of Brussels and Strasbourg.

Thanks to the forthcoming closed-list system of PR, in several of Britain's 11 new European electoral regions the Greens are in with a chance of at least one of 89 seats on offer, and Dr Lucas, an Oxford policy adviser, stands the best chance of all. Not only does the electoral arithmetic work best for her - under the new system she needs only 8.3 per cent of the vote in her South-East region to get elected - she is regarded by many observers as an outstanding candidate for a party whose policies have in the past been seen as dis-

tinctly cranky. Dr Lucas is a radical, but a reassuring radical. She has a long history of involvement with CND, the women's movement and Third World issues, as well as holding many senior posts in the Green Party itself, but she is also well-presented and engaging, married with a family and holding down a responsible job.

Ask her why anyone should vote Green and she replies: "Because there's no better way of putting pressure on the other parties to put environmental and social issues at the top of the agenda than by getting some Greens elected."

The Greens are against European monetary union, global free trade, the relentless pursuit of economic growth, and nuclear weapons. They favour stronger animal welfare controls, no new roads, green taxes to replace income tax and a state-guaranteed basic income for everyone.

Their election would give renewed political significance to environmental issues, which are regarded by the Govern-

ment's engine room, the 10 Downing Street Policy Unit, as worth very few votes for Tony Blair's re-election in 2002, compared with the economy, health and education. They would also provide a properly radical alternative for Labour voters feeling Tony Blair has merely stolen the Tories' clothes.

Handled properly, the June poll could mean a significant comeback for a party that in the past decade has succeeded only in marginalising itself by internal squabbles, and at its worst moments becoming a national joke - very much against the international trend. Green parties are thriving across Europe and are members of national coalition governments in France, Germany, Italy and Finland.

The Greens reached their British high point in the European elections of 1989, when they secured a remarkable 15 per cent of the national vote and made environmental issues politically significant for the first time. But Britain's first-past-the-post electoral system denied them any seats.

Their biggest electoral successes to date have been seats on local councils (they hold 29). Furthermore, after 1989 the party proceeded to implode. Its two best-known and most charismatic faces, Jonathon Porritt and Sarah Parkin, led a movement to try to turn it into a streamlined election-fighting machine but were defeated by grassroots activists suspicious of a powerful "centre". Both dropped out of active politics (they now share the running of an environmental charity, Forum for the Future).

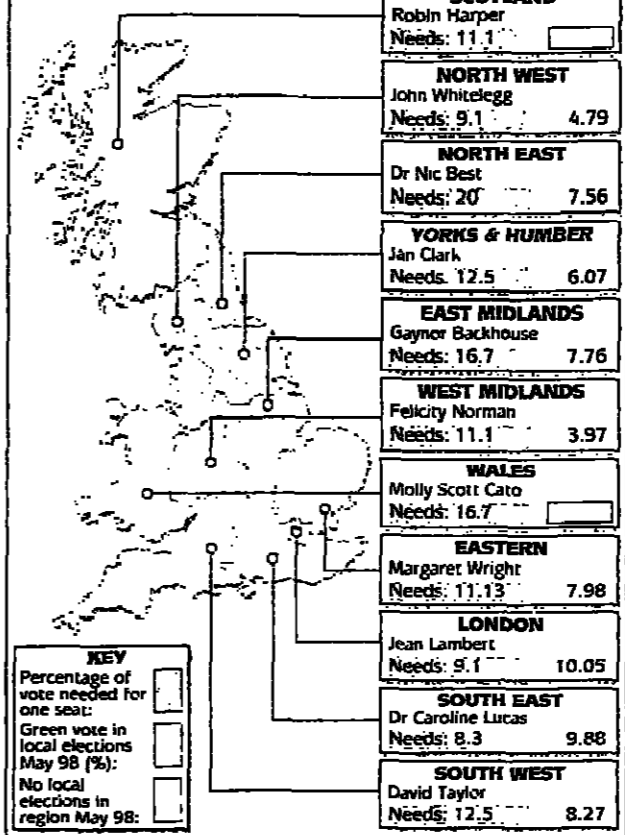
Under the closed-list system voters choose a party rather than a person, with the parties drawing up their own lists of candidates. Seats in each region are then allocated according to the proportion of votes each party wins.

The percentage required to win one seat varies in the 11 regions from a high of 20 per cent to a low of 8.3 per cent. This latter figure, and some others, look distinctly achievable to the Greens.

In national polls, the Green Party is nowhere: when people

EURO ELECTIONS: GREENS WITH A CHANCE

Green party lead candidates by region



'People want a quick fix'

BY RHYS WILLIAMS

AN INCREASING reliance on drugs, liberation from mass merchandising and techno-paranoia are some of the trends predicted for the coming year by an advertising executive.

Futurologist Marian Salzman, a director in the worldwide advertising agency Young and Rubicam, highlights several trends for the year ahead in a book to be published this week called *Next: A Vision of Our Lives in the Future*.

In education she predicts greater parental involvement. In America, for example, up to 1.6 million children are now being schooled at home. "The push to prepare our children for the new millennium results in a surge in everything from home schooling to educational software and private tutors," she says.

Self reliance will continue after school. She says the decline of the welfare state and job security will encourage self help and entrepreneurship.

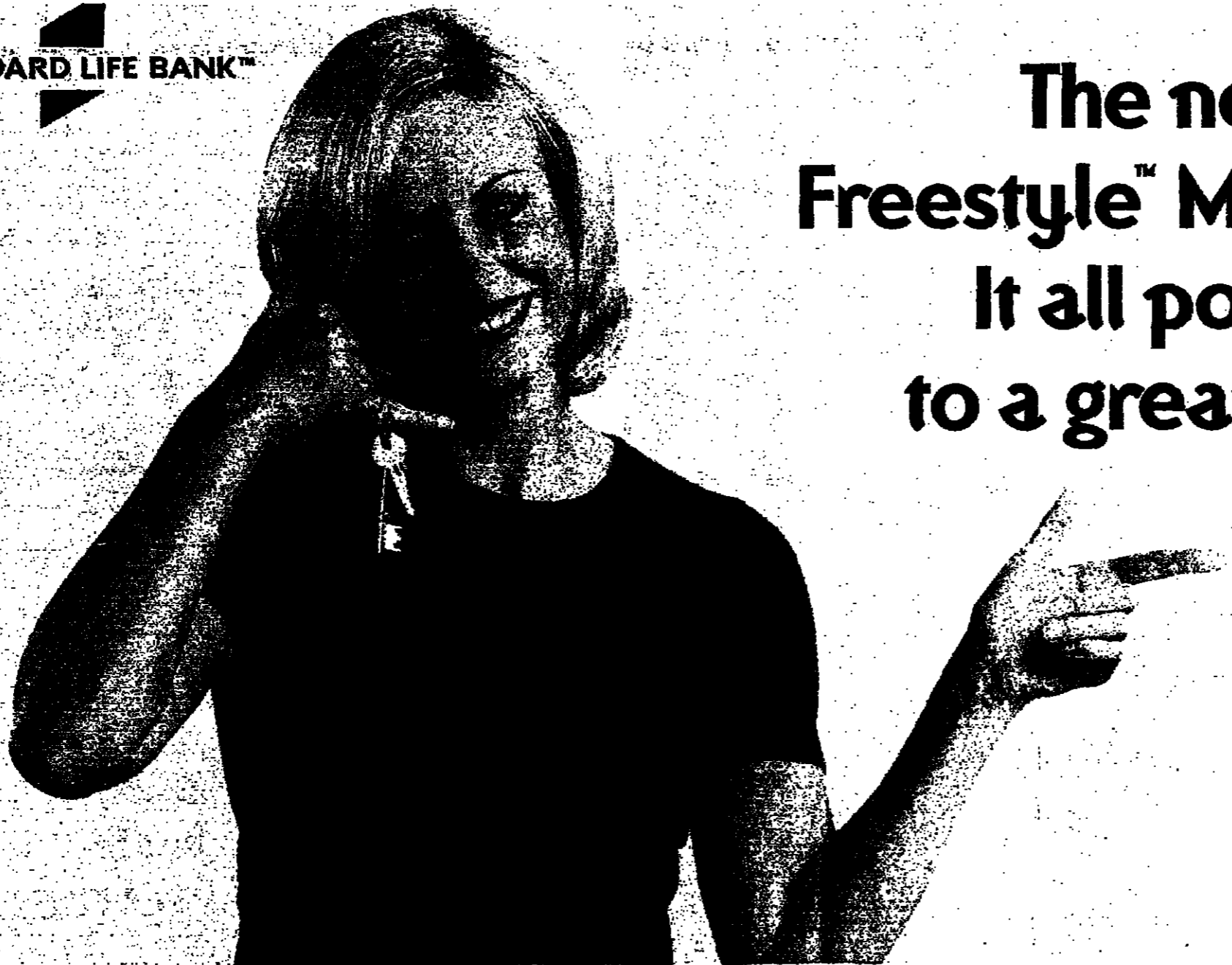
She predicts people will become more sceptical about the mass of information they receive via new technology.

And while mass merchandising will have its place, the drift towards personalised products - from do-it-yourself beauty treatments to herbal remedies and home DIY.

Ms Salzman predicts that the moral high ground will become the new source of conflict. Witness, she says, the murder of abortion providers in the US and the more extreme acts of animal liberation activists. "We'll see extremists wrest control of issues from those who would tend toward compromise and moderation."

And if the pre-millennial tension becomes too much, then consumers will turn to pills. "Whether it's Viagra, Prozac or miracle diet drugs, it's all part of our growing intolerance for anything but the quickest of fixes," she says.

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Bomb aimed at Pakistani PM kills four

BY MARCUS TANNER

NAWAZ SHARIF, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, narrowly escaped assassination yesterday when a bomb exploded under a bridge shortly before he was due to cross it, killing four people.

The bridge, two miles from Mr Sharif's private residence in Raiwind, was destroyed in the explosion, which was heard for miles around. The bomb went off around the time he and his family were expected to cross on their way from Lahore, the capital of Punjab, 13 miles away.

The Prime Minister's life was saved when he delayed his departure from his house in Lahore. He and his family were still there at the time of the blast and they later flew to Raiwind by helicopter.

The government called the explosion an "act of terrorism" while police said they believed that a political party formerly allied with Mr Sharif was behind the act. Three civilians and a police officer were killed, and three other policemen were wounded.

Police said they suspected the Muttahida Qami Movement, an Urdu-speaking party. There were reports that three MQM workers had been ar-



Nawaz Sharif narrowly escaped assassination

rested in Karachi, more than 600 miles to the south, in Sindh province. Mr Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League has been at odds with the MQM for some time over the worsening chaos in Sindh province.

The government has blamed the MQM for inciting violence in Karachi, a city of 14 million, which has been controlled by the MQM since the mid-1980s. More than 1,000 people died in political and religious violence there last year.

The MQM, which represents Urdu-speakers who fled the communal violence in India at the time of independence in 1947, denies the accusations

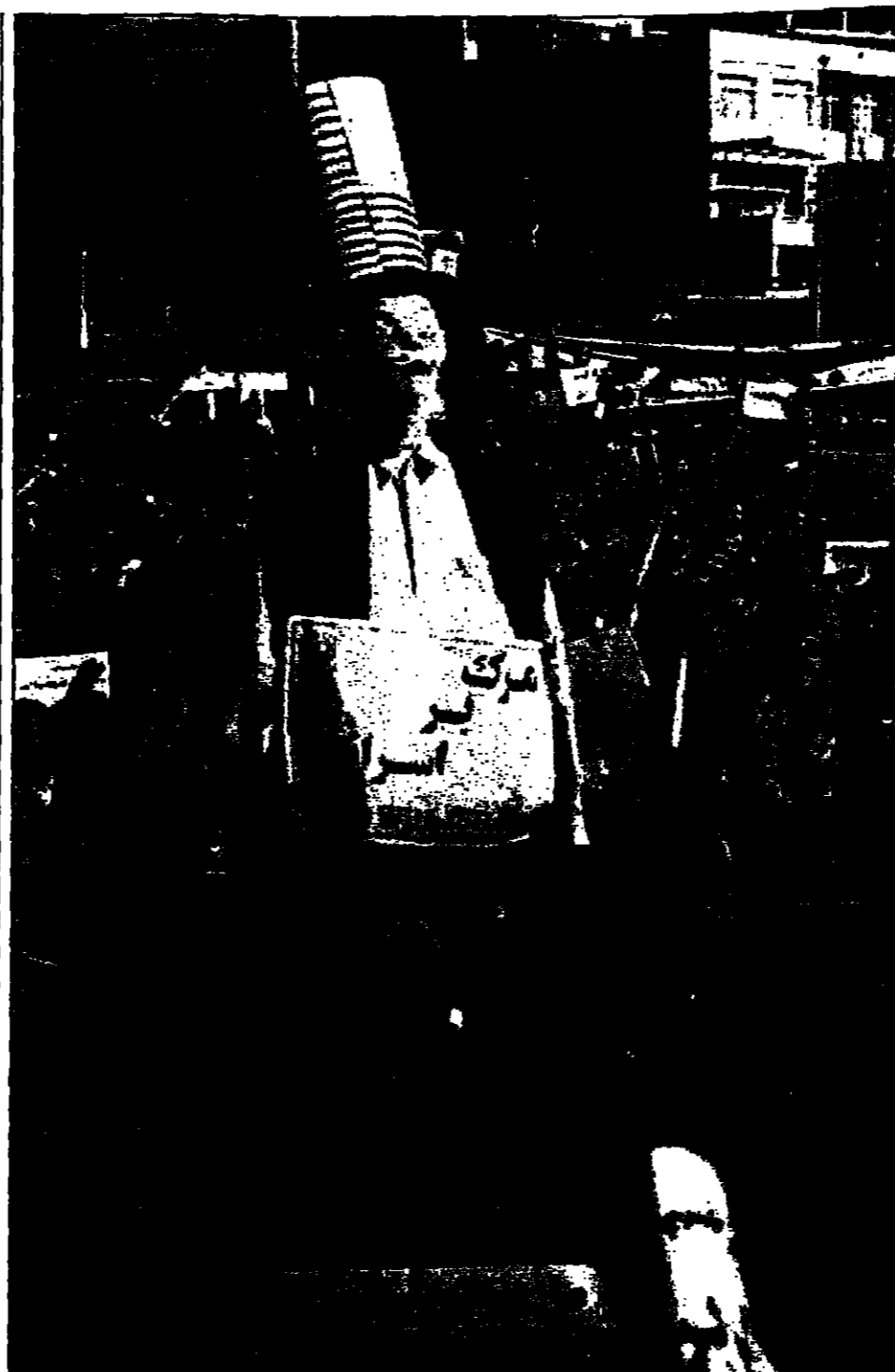
and has accused the government of waging "terrorism" against its supporters.

In November last year, the government set up military courts to try people held responsible for violence in Karachi. They also suspended the provincial government of Sindh and the region is now ruled by the army and the federal government.

Officials said the Prime Minister was unruffled by the attack. "Our Prime Minister is a brave man," the Information Minister, Mushahid Hussain, said. "I have just talked to him, he is unshaken. In fact he is more concerned about those who died and were wounded in the explosion."

Mr Sharif, 49, has emerged as the country's most powerful leader in decades. He became the first industrialist to head a Pakistani government in November 1990 after Benazir Bhutto was sacked by the former president Ghulam Ishaq Khan. In 1993, Sharif was also sacked by Ishaq Khan.

He was reinstated by the Supreme Court but later resigned in a deal that led to new elections, won by Bhutto. He then led his party to a landslide victory in 1997.



'Down with America' was the main slogan at a rally by Islamic civil servants and factory workers yesterday in the Iranian capital, Tehran. Mohammad Saggyad/AP

Bin Laden admits role in terrorism

OSAMA BIN LADEN, the alleged terrorist blamed by Washington for the bombing of US embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam last summer, has said in a rare interview that neither of the two men being held for the attacks was involved in the bombings and accused the CIA of using the arrests to cover up its intelligence failures.

But he failed to deny his involvement in terrorism, insisting that acquiring weapons of any variety, including chemical and nuclear weapons was a Muslim "religious duty".

"If the instigation for jihad (holy war) against the Jews and the Americans... is considered a crime, then let history be a witness that I am a criminal," he said. "Our job is to instigate," he said, "and, by the grace of God, we did that, and certain people responded to this instigation."

Mr bin Laden, who is second only to the Iraqi leader, President Saddam Hussein, on the list of American bogeymen, was interviewed for Time magazine by a Pakistani journalist, Rahimullah Yusufzai.

To conduct the interview, reported in today's issue of the magazine, Mr Yusufzai says he was approached out of the blue by associates of Mr bin Laden on 22 December and taken by car to an encampment in the Afghan desert near the Pakistan border.

Asked about the two men now in US custody in connection with the Kenyan and Tanzanian embassy bombings, Wadhi el-Hage and Mohamed Rashed al-Owhali, Mr bin Laden said he was confident they would be exonerated. He admitted Wadhi el-Hage had been associated with him at one time, as "one of our brothers whom God was kind enough to steer to the path of relief work for Afghan refugees", but said: "He has nothing to do with the US allegations." Of al-Owhali, he denied any direct knowledge.

He said: "The fact of the matter is that America, and in particular the CIA, wanted to cover up its failure in the aftermath of the events that took place in

BY MARY DEJEVSKY in Washington

Riyadh, Nairobi, Dar Es Salaam, Capetown, Kampala and other places. God willing, in the future - by arresting any person who had participated in the Islamic Jihad in Afghanistan.

Asked about reports that he had attempted to obtain chemical and even nuclear weapons, Mr bin Laden seemed to be trying to keep Washington guessing. "Acquiring weapons for the defence of Muslims is a religious duty," he said. "If I have indeed acquired these weapons, then I thank God for



Defiant: Osama bin Laden

enabling me to do so... It would be a sin for Muslims not to try to possess the weapons that would prevent the infidels from inflicting harm on Muslims."

The interview appears to be an attempt by Mr bin Laden to promote his message and simultaneously to taunt the US for its failure to find him.

Mr bin Laden has been in hiding since the embassy bombings and has frustrated all American attempts to track him down.

In August he escaped a retaliatory US bomb attack on a camp in southern Afghanistan believed to be his headquarters. Washington subsequently denied involvement in attempts to kill him. The magazine said Mr bin Laden used a walking stick because of a bad back and was nursing a sore throat but said he denied his health was poor.

Saddam urges Iraqis to resist no-fly zones

SADDAM HUSSEIN condemned as illegal the Western "no-fly" zones imposed over northern and southern Iraq and said yesterday his people would resist them with "bravery and courage".

The Iraqi news Agency said President Saddam, maintaining Iraq's recent strong challenge to the no-fly zones, told his cabinet they were "flagrant and clear-cut violations of international laws, accords and

BY DOMINIC EVANS in Baghdad

norms, particularly the United Nations charter".

The statement was his first public comment on the recent clashes between Iraqi air defence units and warplanes patrolling the zones. The zones were set up by Western forces after the 1991 Gulf War to limit his power in northern Kurdish and southern Shia regions.

Iraq has repeatedly challenged the no-fly zones since the end of a four-day campaign of air strikes launched by United States and British forces two weeks ago.

Senior Iraqi officials have said Baghdad will continue to defy the no-fly zones and an Iraqi government newspaper yesterday predicted the confrontation with Washington and London would worsen after a pause over the new year.

President Saddam described the no-fly zones as "an aggressive operation, which violates the will of the Arab people and the Iraqi people, which rejects them and is determined to resist them with all bravery and courage."

"Arabs and just people all over the world are asking what these planes are doing, flying in the skies of an independent country, and why have they been violating the air space of

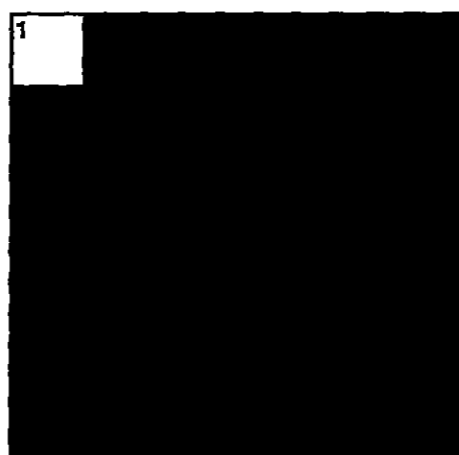
this country for eight years without a UN resolution permitting this," the Iraqi agency quoted him as saying.

He also criticised Arab nations for delaying until 24 January a summit at which the US-British attacks on Iraq would have been on the agenda, saying the delay was deliberately intended to reduce any sense of urgency in tackling the air strikes.

In Egypt, foreign ministers

of four Arab countries held secret talks at the weekend to try to forge a strategy on Iraq. The ministers from Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen met at the invitation of Egypt's Foreign Minister, Amr Moussa, at Hurgada, 255 miles south of Cairo. Diplomats said the ministers agreed to lobby the Arab League to put off a meeting on Iraq indefinitely for fear that it would only further split Arab ranks. (Reuters)

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Hand-me-down lives of El Meech victims

AFTER MITCH

TEGUCIGALPA

AS USUAL, Rosa Janet Gomez and her three young daughters were in the San Francisco church this Christmas. But this year, they were not there for the Christmas service. They were sleeping, all four of them, on a single mattress on the cold, dust-covered tile floor of a church hall.

The mattress is their home, four cardboard banana cartons full of donated clothes their only furniture. A dozen other women and children sleep around them in a draughty, unheated, windowless hall the size of a suburban living room. At night, they are bitterly cold, huddling together for warmth under charity blankets.

Rosa and her daughters - Francis, nine, Suma, eight, and Jacelyna, three - are among 100 people, 33 of them children, left homeless by Hurricane Mitch and now living in the colonial San Francisco church or the unfurnished halls of what used to be an adjoining

military museum. They are among 500,000 people Hondurans - almost 10 per cent of the population - still homeless two months after Mitch's floods washed away their houses. Hundreds of thousands of others are living with relatives or roughing it in the remains of their battered homes, many without roofs.

"The government has done nothing for us. No one has come here," said Janet, a 28-year-old street vendor.

"Someone came from the mayor's office but they just counted us as if we were animals. We want them to give us hope. I told them we want to work. If we work, we can pay a monthly rent. All we want is a little *casita* [house]. If they don't give us a house, we'll have to go back to Barrio Abajo and build one ourselves," said Janet.

Barrio Abajo (Low District), by the Choluteca river, was among the worst hit by the



Tegucigalpa residents burn a model symbolising the hurricane, while Rosa Janet Gomez and her family wait for a home. AFP/Phil Davison

floods that swept through here on 30 October. The government fears thousands will return to dangerous riverside zones but has so far done little or nothing to provide housing

that would give them another option.

Thinking I was an official, and that I might help them get homes, dozens of female refugees surrounded me, with

their children clutching my legs, and insisted I write down all their names. When I asked them what happened to their homes, several answered with a stock phrase that has become

a black joke here: "Gone with the itch." Pronounced in Spanish, the hurricane will always be known here as El Meech.

Sprawled on his mattress with his crutch beside him on

the floor, Marcos Amador, a one-legged 68-year-old tailor, begged me to find him a job so he could pay for food and some Christmas presents for his children and grandchildren. He lost his right leg in a football accident at the age of 18. "Work is what I miss most. I feel inadequate here. I didn't want to leave my shop but I had to run when the water got up to here," he said, drawing his hand across his shoulders.

The 100 refugees, most of them poor from the nearby La Olla district, share a tiny kerosene stove on which to cook donated food and a single water tap to wash themselves or their laundry. Forty per cent of La Olla houses, made of adobe, were swept away by the floodwaters. Another 40 per cent, built of stone, survived but lost roofs and are uninhabitable. Residents have returned to the remainder but would be in grave danger if the river rose again.

Angela Maria Ardon, a 41-year-old Honduran Red Cross volunteer, got on to her tiptoes to point to the mark, 10 feet high, where the muddy river reached in her living room. The only furniture that remains in her house are two faded black-and-white family portraits on a wall in the hall.

Angela, who now helps to look after her fellow refugees in the San Francisco church, was one of the quiet heroes of Mitch. "We got everyone out of La Olla just in time. We walked around the neighbourhood, roped together like mountaineers, to get people out. When the water got up to our shoulders, we left, too, and headed for the church," she said.

When I visited them before Christmas, keeping a promise made when I left after reporting the devastation of Hurricane Mitch, the San Francisco church refugees were prepar-

ing for a visit by Santa Claus and a Christmas party thrown by well-off foreign teenagers from Tegucigalpa's cosmopolitan American School. The refugees had strung up strands of red-and-green crepe paper around the patio of the flaking Spanish colonial building that houses the church and a former Spanish military barracks, which later became a museum. As they waited for Santa, children clambered over a 1942 Browning machine-gun and a 37mm field cannon, the latter captured from Salvadoran troops during the so-called Soccer War of the sixties.

Rodrigo Banegas, a 44-year-old portrait and landscape painter who had lost his home in the hurricane, had decorated a tiny Christmas tree with silver paper and painted cardboard shapes, alongside a sign saying *Feliz Navidad* (Merry Christmas). "Come into my apartment," he said, pointing to his mattress, surrounded by paintings he used to sell to tourists for £15 to £20. As his bedhead, he used the one thing he salvaged from the floods - the sign outside his home, advertising "Portraits".

And then came Santa. Somewhat surprised by his young eyes - not unlike those of 18-year-old American School student Jorge Espinosa - children prodded his bulging belly to check whether it was real. In sharp contrast to the ragged refugee children, the boys and girls from the expensive American School - mostly the sons or daughters of diplomats from around the world - wore crisp uniforms, the girls in white blouses and navy pin-striped frocks.

But they were carrying gifts: doughnuts, sweets and two dozen giant Domino's pizzas, so they were most welcome. And they belted out Christmas carols in English as Santa handed out the presents - mostly hand-me-downs from the rich schoolkids who had held a "toy drive" for the storm victims.

"This is so sad. Honduras was badly off before Mitch. And look at these kids' conditions now," said Linda Taylor, 16-year-old daughter of an American diplomat. "But at least we're doing something for them, giving them something resembling Christmas."

She was right. Away from the crowd, in her "home" - on her mattress - little Jacelyna Gomez could not have cared less about Mitch. Her face painted by the remnants of a slice of pepperoni pizza - her Christmas dinner - she chatted contentedly to her new friend, a second-hand, Chinese-made doll called Sporty Jennifer. Jennifer once belonged to a rich girl but Jacelyna neither knew nor cared about that.

PHIL DAVISON



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BUSINESS

MPC expected to hold back from rate change

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

LEADING CITY economists expect the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to leave interest rates unchanged when it meets later this week, although most anticipate that the introduction of the euro will help push rates down sharply later.

Economists say the committee will adopt a "wait and see" policy until more data becomes available on key indicators such as December's retail sales figures and the fourth quarter GDP figures, which are not available until after this month's meeting.

Steve Bell, head of research at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said: "We think the committee will keep rates on hold this time. But if they don't move at all in January, they are likely to cut by half a point in February."

Michael Hughes, group economic adviser at ING Barings Asset Management, agreed. "It would make sense to assess the data that will come through during January and then make an adjustment next month," he said.

The MPC starts its two-day meeting on Wednesday, following last month's half-point cut to 6.25 per cent. One key factor pushing interest rates lower is the lower level of rates among the countries in the "euro zone".

British rates are expected to gradually converge with those in the euro zone where interest rates are currently fixed at 3 per cent. The European Central Bank will also meet on Thursday but is expected to leave rates unchanged.

Some economists say that the UK picture has been clouded by November's surprise rise in retail sales figures. However, the British Retail Consortium yesterday repeated its call for lower rates saying a late surge in



Shoppers have been out in force during the January sales, but the level of spending is still unclear

Christmas sales should not distract MPC members from the underlying weakness in consumer spending.

Ann Grain, a spokesman for the BRC, said: "However good the winter sales are, they will not make up for what went before. Retailers have had a very poor October and November and consumer confidence is still very weak. We would still call for another rate cut."

The BRC said that anecdotal evidence suggested that while British shoppers have been out in force during the sales, it is not clear whether this has trans-

lated into a higher number of transactions. Meadowhall, the out-of-town shopping centre near Sheffield, said trading yesterday had been quieter than previous days but blamed the dip on heavy snowfall.

In London, the general manager of Selfridges, the department store, said trading had been "phenomenal" in certain sectors. Trading yesterday was "steady" following some days of record consumer footfall over the Christmas/New Year period.

The MPC will look at this

week's economic surveys before reaching its conclusion. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply publishes its monthly reports on the manufacturing and service sectors today and tomorrow.

On Wednesday, the Engineering Employers Federation is expected to produce another downbeat report on business trends. Further evidence of consumer spending will come when retailers start issuing Christmas trading statements. Goldsmiths, the jewellery retailer at the centre of takeover speculation, will report its figures today.

Yesterday the company said it had no knowledge of any plans by the management to take the company private. Goldsmiths share have risen sharply in the past week on speculation of a possible deal.

Separately, the Manpower quarterly study of employment prospects, published today, shows that job prospects are the worst for five years. The study shows that the overall trend mirrors the last recession, with job prospects deteriorating in all three sectors - public sector, service sector and manufacturing - for the first time.

BRIEFING

IMF 'must improve crisis handling'

THE INTERNATIONAL Monetary Fund must improve crisis management in the world financial system, Stanley Fischer, the Fund's deputy managing director, said last night. "We can surely do better in reducing the frequency and intensity of emerging market financial crises ... than we have in the last five years," he said.

International lenders could insist that countries wanting loans met certain conditions, such as releasing economic and financial data on a more frequent and timely basis, he said. Lenders could also offer contingency loans to supplement the reserves of countries threatened by a crisis but not yet in one.

Kirch empire split into three



LEO KIRCH, the German media mogul (pictured), has completed the long-awaited restructuring of his empire into three holding companies, opening the way to a possible partnership with Rupert Murdoch's News Corp and Silvio Berlusconi's Mediaset.

Taurus Film is to control Mr Kirch's film and television production and the rights to two future football World Cups. Pay Co will handle the group's digital and pay-TV activities, while a third company will incorporate the publisher Springer-Verlag and the SATI broadcaster. A spokesman for Mr Kirch yesterday said further details would be announced this week.

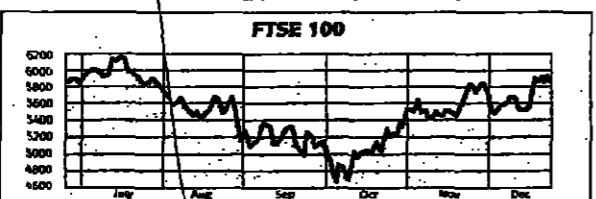
CWC signs £100m Vodafone deal

CABLE & WIRELESS Communications (CWC) is today set to announce a deal to supply Vodafone with additional network capacity as the boom in mobile phone users continues.

The contract is worth more than £100m over the next five years in CWC, which is spending £400m upgrading its national network. CWC said its upgraded network would be capable of dealing with the next generation of mobile phones that will be able to offer video and high-speed internet access.

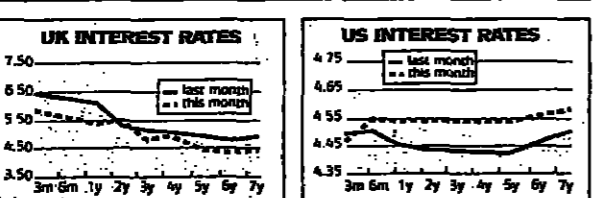
Vodafone, the UK's biggest mobile phone group, is also due to reveal its fourth-quarter customer figures tomorrow.

STOCK MARKETS



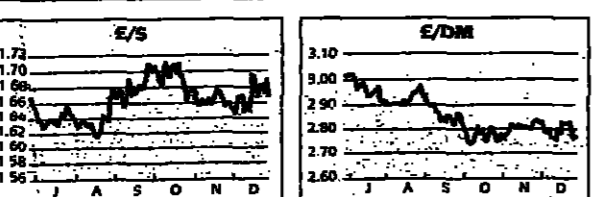
Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch %	52 wk high	52 wk low	Vol (M)
FTSE 100	5882.30	15.40	0.26	6183.7	4599.2	3.196
FTSE 250	4894.70	41.90	0.87	5970.9	4247.6	4.798
FTSE 350	2773.40	9.90	0.36	2962.1	2210.4	3.427
FTSE All Share	2673.91	10.18	0.38	2886.52	2143.53	3.478
FTSE SmallCap	2070.90	18.50	0.90	2793.8	1834.4	4.056
FTSE Fledgling	1146.40	10.60	0.93	1517.1	1046.2	0.904
FTSE AIM	801.60	9.50	1.20	1145.9	761.3	0.002
FTSE EBLIC 100	998.29					
Dow Jones	9181.43	-36.56	-0.40	9380.2	7400.3	1.63
Nikkei	13842.17	144.22	0.32	17352.95	12787.9	1.098
Hang Seng	10048.58	-243.82	-2.37	11926.16	6544.79	3.1
Dax	5002.39	50.62	1.02	6217.83	3833.71	1.708

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	10 year	30 year	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	6.26	-1.43	5.63	-2.06	4.36	-1.93	4.27
US	5.07	-0.75	5.10	-0.87	4.65	-1.10	5.10
Japan	0.54	-0.23	0.58	-0.15	2.22	0.27	2.97
Germany	3.22	-0.42	3.20	-0.73	3.87	-1.49	4.78

CURRENCIES



Index	Friday	Wk's ch	Wk's ch %	Yr ago
Dollar	1.6600	-1.41c	-1.6451	
D-Mark	2.7719	-3.97pf	-2.9743	
Yen	188.83	-5.58	-215.94	
E index	100.40	-0.40	100.40	
Sterling	0.6024	+0.51p	0.6078	
D-Mark	1.6694	-1.44pf	1.7887	
Yen	113.91	-12.10	130.58	
S index	104.70	-0.50	109.10	

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Wk's ch	Wk's ch %	Yr ago
Brent Oil (\$)	10.57	0.61	15.94	
Gold (\$)	288.25	1.30	289.05	
Silver (\$)	5.01	0.10	5.99	
GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
RPI	164.40	3.00	159.61	Dec
Base Rates	6.25	7.25		

TOURIST RATES

Country	Rate	Country	Rate
Australia (\$)	2.6493	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.91
Austria (schillings)	19.13	Netherlands (guilders)	3.0678
Belgium (francs)	56.26	New Zealand (\$)	3.0661
Canada (\$)	2.5375	Norway (krone)	12.34
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8048	Portugal (escudos)	278.08
Denmark (krone)	10.43	Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1173
Finland (markka)	8.3053	Singapore (\$)	2.6586
France (francs)	9.1352	Spain (pesetas)	231.60
Germany (marks)	2.7362	South Africa (rand)	9.4978
Greece (drachma)	458.85	Sweden (krone)	13.27
Hong Kong (\$)	12.61	Switzerland (francs)	2.2346
Ireland (pounds)	1.0946	Thailand (bahts)	56.39
Indian (rupees)	64.18	Turkey (liras)	507.854
Israel (shekels)	6.4941	USA (\$)	1.6399
Italy (lira)	2711		
Japan (yen)	189.63		
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1169		
Malta (lira)	0.6110		

Rates for indication purposes only
Source: Thomas Cook

Griffin traders threaten move to DTB

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

TRADERS HIT by the Griffin Futures collapse are warning that business will decamp wholesale from London to Frankfurt's Deutsche Terminbörse (DTB) if the City authorities fail to help them get back into business within the next few days.

One trader, who is outraged by what she terms the arrogance of the authorities, said yesterday: "The DTB's marketing department must be licking its chops."

"Nobody is going to use Life (the London futures market) if they (the DTB) copy the US system and allow proper segregation of client accounts."

Questions were this week being asked about the role of Mr Park's brokers, Tullet and Tokyo.

One trader said: "Normally a broker is aware of the usual size in which a trader would deal. Why didn't anyone at Tullet think it strange that Mr Park had 9,000 DTB lots when he had told Griffin he had 900, and pick up the phone?"

At least 80 independent futures traders working in London have been put out of business after the firm through which they cleared their trades, Griffin Trading Company, was brought down by the trading losses of John Park.

The Korean-born trader lost £6.25m just before Christmas after his bet on the German futures market went spectacularly wrong. Traders are angry that the money they deposited with the firm in order to be able to trade has been used to cover Mr Park's losses.

In contrast to the usual practice in other major markets, London allows net margining, which means that the money deposited by each client in effect goes in the same pot.

One trader said yesterday that money they had deposited with Griffin's American parent, which sought bankruptcy last week, was still intact.

"What Life and the London Clearing House should be saying is that we stand by the market," said the trader. "No individual trader should be unable to resume trading."

"They should also pledge to lobby the Financial Services Authority to change the rules so that this cannot happen again. This has opened up a large Pandora's box. What if, instead of John Park, it was the XY pension fund that lost the money?"

Mr Park, who has an American passport, has not been seen since last week. He has not been at his London flat or at his mother's house in the country.

Rebel investor seeks EGM to oust Tay board

A REBEL investor in Tay Homes is expected to step up its battle to oust the housebuilder's board today by requisitioning an extraordinary general meeting.

Sunley, an unquoted property and investment group that owns just over 10 per cent of Tay, says it has the backing of fund manager Phillips & Drew - Tay's largest shareholder which holds about 15 per cent. It also claims other institutional shareholders are equally dissatisfied with Tay's recent performance.

Shares in Tay Homes have collapsed over the past year, falling from 142.5p in March to close last week at 107.5p. Other shareholders include Fidelity, which owns about 10 per cent, and Foreign Colonial, which has a 7 per cent stake.

The dissident investors have accused the company of losing

its way. They are unhappy about its high level of gearing, high overheads and low operating margin. They say the incumbent management has failed and that a new strategy is needed.

However, Tay has rejected previous calls by Sunley for a management overhaul, accusing it of trying to win control of a rival company without paying a premium. Tay said it has enough shareholder support to see off the rebel.

Sunley has criticised Tay's record during the recent slowdown in the North, focusing on its low returns in relation to other quoted housebuilders.

It has put forward four candidates for the board, including its joint chief executive, Richard Tice, as chief executive to replace John Swanson. Peter Hedges, a former director of the

construction group Taylor Woodrow, has been put forward to take over from Tay's chairman Norman Stubbs.

It is also proposing Stewart Urry, a former managing director of Belgrave Property, for the post of finance director and Tim Walker, a former finance director of Five Oaks Investments, as a non-executive director.

Sunley has been building up its stake in Tay Homes since last summer when Trevor Spencer, who co-founded Tay with Mr Stubbs, retired, and Mr Stubbs was promoted from chief executive to chairman. Mr Swanson replaced Mr Stubbs as chief executive at the same time.

Sunley, which operates in the South-east, maintains it is not attempting any form of merger with Tay.

Small firms fail to take up New Deal

ALMOST HALF the country's small firms are confused about the Government's flagship New Deal jobs scheme, according to a survey published today. Many complain that job centres either fail to contact them or send inappropriate candidates to interview.

The Federation of Small Businesses said its poll of 1,800 business owners found the take-up of small firms under the scheme was "disappointing". However, the Department for Education and Employment hit back, saying the survey was encouraging in key aspects, including a high awareness of the New Deal among small businesses.

The poll showed that just 15 per cent had been contacted by their local job centre about the New Deal, even though two out of three found the scheme appealing because of the subsidy offered to employers to take on an unemployed worker.

The Federation said job centres should be privatised if the "disappointing performance" continued.

Employment spokesman Mr Bernard Juby said: "The survey suggests new impetus is needed to get New Deal working for small businesses."

"Although it is early days, a time limit should be given to get things working smoothly. If it cannot make the grade, the Employment Service has prime high street locations which would be attractive to the private sector."

Employers are offered a £60-a-week subsidy to take on New Dealers, and £75-a-week for older long-term unemployed. More than 3,500 employers have signed up to the scheme.

And the closing Footsie number will be...

BY DEREK PAIN

The annual game of predicting the next 12 months and FTSE level for the end of 1999 is on, but this year analysts are even more hesitant than usual

FORECASTING IS a hazardous exercise but each year the City's army of stock market strategists puts its collective head on the chopping block to offer thoughts about the direction of shares.

Complaints that the coming 12 months are particularly difficult to predict invariably accompany the forecasts. This year is no exception.

Even so the estimates, some confident but mostly hesitant, are again flowing. Many expect blue chips to make further headway although there seems to be little support for under-performing second and third liners, with talk that it could be years before they return to the heart of the stock market.

What is clear is that company profits are unlikely to show much in the way of growth. Yet few dividends are expected to be cut or pegged.

So, on the surface, predictions that Footsie could end 1999 around the 6,800 points mark have a rather unreal ring to

them. Yet the weight-of-money argument, expectations that New York will at least edge further ahead, and growing investor confidence are likely to fuel share progress.

As Legal & General's David Rough says: "Confidence on both sides of the Atlantic will pick up strongly as governments and businesses are seen by investors as having successfully managed and weathered what many commentators expected to be the worst period since the great depression."

There should be some economic recovery, probably in the second half of the year, and lower base rates, which could fall to 5 per cent, should help hard-pressed exporters. However, the arrival of the euro could distort the performance of the pound.

With little or even no earnings growth mega-mergers are expected to continue as companies combine - cuddling together to

keep warm - to get more marketing muscle and cut costs.

Low inflation should also underpin equities, and falling interest rates should prompt movement from deposits into shares as investors, big and small, seek to retain and even increase yields.

The birth of Euroland, with 11 countries using the euro as currency, is not expected to have much short-term influence on the British investment scene. As time goes on what will eventually be the second largest stock market in the world will, of course, impact on London with one possibility being a bigger two-way investment flow.

Certainly, the growing temptation for British fund managers to invest in European stocks will increase. But there is every chance that the greater cash flow will be in the opposite direction with more British stocks attracting Continental interest.

Possibly the most worrying aspect of the forecasting round is the failure of the stock market's under card to gain much support. The Small Cap index has under-performed the All Share index by a staggering 40 per cent in two years. Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney is one of the few spotting a glimmer of hope - he reckons there could be something of a revival in the middle of the year.

At this time a year ago, little hope was held out for the little uns. The general view was that the Lords of Footsie would hit the high spots but the rest would dilly and dally and miss the party. Despite achieving new highs in the first half of the year, the stock market undercard performed in line with expectations.

The ragged and sad undercard display should, I feel, worry the Stock Exchange powers. The yawning gap between the

powerful and the rest could be the stock market's Achilles heel, creating growing disenchantment among small investors who provide much of the investment seed corn, as well as unsettling small companies whose management perceive their capitalisation to be derisory.

The most optimistic Footsie forecast I have come across is HSBC's 6,800 points for the year end. Chase Manhattan is shrouded in gloom, shooting for 5,400. Most are over 6,000 with the consensus suggesting the millennium will start with the Footsie at 6,250.

Among the other more adventurous souls are SG Securities on 6,700; Warburg Dillon Read 6,600; ABN Amro and Dresdner Kleinwort Benson both at 6,500 and Lehman Brothers 6,400. A clutch on 6,300 include BT Alex Brown, L&G and Merrill Lynch.

My hunch is that the strategists are being overly cautious. When the millennium arrives I would hope to see Footsie above 7,000 - a level BT Alex Brown suggest for the following December. My forecast for the year just ending was 5,600.

There is a general acceptance that stock market conditions will be particularly volatile. This will stem from the overall investment scene as well as the sharp fluctuations often produced by trading on the computerised order book. L&G, for example, see the index swinging between 6,500 and 5,200.

Still, predicting the closing 1999 Footsie is a precise science that it is unrealistic to expect to achieve. As L&G suggest: "A few hundred points plus or minus makes a lot of difference to the total return achieved in 1998 and to the prospective return of 1999."

"But, in the real scheme of things, the direction of markets is far more important than their absolute value on one day at the end of the year."

RISES[illegible]

The last EMU before global union?


THE BRITISH MUSEUM is celebrating the introduction of the euro with an exhibition about earlier monetary unions in the coins and medals department until 10 January. It provides ammunition for both the advocates and the opponents of today's Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

As the museum says: "From the European century BC to the beginning of the third millennium AD, economic and monetary union has a long history."

Some monetary unions have succeeded, some have failed, but none have lasted. Far from preventing wars, previous monetary unions have broken down because of wars, or sometimes less dramatic disagreements between members.

Three different kinds of monetary union, or common currency, are on show. In earlier times, there were common, rather than single currencies. Before the rise of the nation-state, many different currencies circulated and competed. The one-to-one link between currencies and states became universal only in the 19th century.

John Stuart Mill, the 19th century philosopher and social reformer, denounced the practice: "So much of barbarism, however, still remains



CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON
Today's Economic and Monetary Union won't be the first but it might prove the most durable

in the transactions of the most civilised nations, that almost all independent countries choose to assert their nationality by having to their own inconvenience and that of their neighbours, a peculiar currency of their own."

Some of the earliest monetary unions took the form of empires imposing their own currency over their area both to symbolise domination and to facilitate trade. In the fifth century BC, Athens collected

money from her allies if they could not provide ships. It was housed in the treasury on the island of Delos, and later transferred to Athens. The treasury was in effect the central bank backing the silver drachma which Athens imposed on its empire.

Opponents of monetary union, notably in Britain, cite various empires as examples to be avoided - Charlemagne, Napoleon and Hitler, for example. Yet none of them found a common currency for purposes of domination. Napoleon imposed the French franc only on Italy, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. Hitler imposed the Reichsmark (literally "imperial mark") only on Austria and Czechoslovakia. The Roman Empire did not impose its coinage on subject territories; they voluntarily adopted it because of its greater value and convenience.

The gut reaction of some British eurosceptics faced with the euro is: "Did we win the war for this?" The implication is that what Germany could not achieve by arms, she is now achieving by money. The European answer is that even a united Germany accounts for only just over a quarter of the European Union economy, and its voting

power in the various European institutions is much less than that. A Germany integrated into a European framework is less likely to dominate than the independent pre-1945 Germany.

The idea that "Brussels" represents some kind of empire is belied by the fact that only the Council of Ministers of the 15 EU governments can take decisions on proposals by the Commission. In any case the European Central Bank, which has powers independent of governments, is located not in Brussels but in Frankfurt. It has two German directors out of 17.

The second kind of monetary union on show occurs where one nation's coinage becomes the common currency - not the single currency - of a number of others. Such "trade coinages" are a tangible manifestation of a kind of economic union. They were common in the Middle Ages, and the stamp of a royal mint gave them a more stable value than the underlying value of the metals from which they were minted. English pennies, Florentine florins and Venetian ducats all circulated throughout Europe in this way.

The best example of a common currency was the Maria Theresa sil-

ver thaler, originally minted in the Austrian Empire in 1744, which went on being used in the Arabian Gulf until 1980. The British gold sovereign was another example. It even became legal tender in Portugal for a time. After 1945, the US dollar became the world's main common currency for trade and finance. It has partly replaced inflation-prone domestic currencies for short periods in countries such as Argentina and Russia, but political as well as economic objections have imposed limits on "dollarization".

In the late 1980s the UK Treasury proposed that the ecu should be allowed to develop by becoming a common currency for trade and finance, competing alongside national currencies. As well as a free market approach to EMU, this was a way of getting Britain off the hook of having to decide whether to join the European single currency.

The competing ecu could never have worked as a basket currency made up of other currencies. It would have had no central bank, and no guarantee of stability against national currencies. David Folkerts-Landau of the IMF caricatured it as "a currency that floats on gossamer wings".

The D-mark would have had a

better chance of outcompeting other European currencies, but that would have raised political objections.

The euro, however backed by the European Central Bank, looks as if it will quickly become a trade currency for non-members in Europe, such as the UK, and a worldwide currency for finance, eventually rivaling the US dollar.

The third kind of monetary union involves an agreement or a treaty between two or more states. As the British Museum puts it: "The degree of economic and political union that accompanies the monetary union depends on the wording of the agreement" - or it might have added, subsequent agreements. This is clearly the model for EMU, whose history forms part of the exhibition.

The most obvious precedent is the Latin Monetary Union. It was set up in 1866, after Belgium, Switzerland and Italy had joined France in setting their own francs (the lira in the case of Italy) at par with each other. Ten countries joined the union formally or informally. The exhibition shows similar gold coins of 20 units of French, Swiss and Belgian francs, Italian lire, Greek drachmas, Bulgarian leva, Roman-

ian lei, Serb dinars, Spanish pesetas and Polish zloty. They all had the same value but each had its national symbol on one side. The euro coins, but not the notes, will follow this example.

The Latin Monetary Union, based on silver and gold, was absorbed into the gold standard in 1878. Britain and Germany, which were already on the gold standard, had refused to join, even though the British sovereign would have been almost exactly equal in value to the proposed new French 25-franc gold coin.

The gold standard was not a monetary union. Countries were free to leave and enter, and to change the value of their currency against gold. By abolishing national currencies, EMU makes it difficult and expensive, though not impossible for a member to leave the union and recreate its own currency. Provided that members agree to spread the benefits of the euro among each other, EMU could thus prove more durable than other monetary unions - at least until monetary union is on the agenda.

Christopher Johnson is UK Adviser to the Association for the Monetary Union of Europe

The year ahead: What 1999 is going to mean for six crucial stock market sectors

Merger mania won't go away

DEFENCE
BY MICHAEL HARRISON

FOR BRITAIN'S defence and aerospace industries, D-Day approaches. This year they "consolidate or die", to use the words of George Robertson, the Secretary of Defence.

The big question remains with whom to consolidate. British Aerospace and Germany's Daimler Chrysler Aerospace look to be too far down the runway to pull out of their merger. The unknown quantity is GEC. Lord Simpson, its chief executive, has decided to hive off the Marconi defence electronics business from its industrial electronics and telecoms interests.

But who will Marconi team up with? It could yet become part of a tripartite arrangement with BAE and Dasa, but the more likely outcome remains some form of transatlantic tie-up with Lockheed Martin or Northrop Grumman.

There will also be consolidation in the armoured vehicles business. GKN and Alvis have already agreed to put their land vehicles businesses together, leaving Vickers' Challenger tanks division out in the cold.

Baron Bysshe, the new chief executive at Vickers, will grasp the nettle early this year - again the choice is between joining a UK alliance or pairing up with a US partner such as United Defense Industries.

On the civil aircraft front, Airbus Industrie will be lucky to achieve its transformation into a single corporate entity before 1999 is out. The deadline has already slipped by six months. As for the airline industry, watch out for further corporate action among the big flag carriers.

There has been persistent speculation about how much longer Bob Ayling will stay as chief executive of British Airways. A move into politics looked like a natural progression but now that his ally Peter Mandelson is gone and Geoffrey Robinson has given businessmen a bad name in Westminster, this looks a less obvious career change.

DRUGS
BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

IT WILL be difficult for pharmaceutical companies to recreate the hype in 1999 that surrounded the industry last year.

After a year in which mergers, merger attempts and



'Consolidate or die' is the message for the European defence industry, already co-operating on projects like the Eurofighter. But who is going to merge with whom?

merger rumours threw a halo of glitz over a sector often seen as dull, the signs are that the next 12 months will be quieter.

Consolidation is still one of the industry's most pressing needs as companies struggle to cope with their ballooning research and development budgets, but many analysts believe that the next merger wave will be delayed until the new millennium.

For a start, there are few deals that could realistically be done. The City's favourite blockbuster, the tie-up between the UK giants Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham, for example, still makes commercial and clinical sense, given the superb fit of the two companies' drug portfolios.

But the clash of personalities between Glaxo's Sir Richard Sykes and the SmithKline Beecham boss Jan Leschly, which sank the deal the first time around, is likely to prove too big a stumbling block.

There could be more merger activity among the medium-sized players, which need to achieve critical mass to survive. Roche, the Swiss Group, and Schering of Germany are the prime candidates. Either of these could spoil the merger between the British drug company Zeneca and Astra of Sweden, launched at the end of 1998.

On the new drugs front, 1999 should bring positive news for SmithKline Beecham, with the launch of its diabetes drug Avandia expected in the second half of the year. The drug has the potential to be a big-seller and could reach £4bn in sales over the next five years.

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
BY PETER THAL LARSEN

INVESTORS IN British information technology stocks should prepare to have their nerve tested again. After the seesaw ride of the past year, when London's newly formed IT index almost doubled in six months only to halve again, computer stocks have stabilised.

However, the uncertainties of the coming year suggest there are more surprises in store.

Growth in the software and services market is expected to slow to about 15 per cent from 20 per cent in 1998. The spending will be heavily weighted towards the first half, when firms will be putting the finishing touches to preparations for the millennium.

This pattern will test IT firms' ability to manage their growth and - equally impor-



More corporate activity is expected in the electricity sector following last year's transatlantic deals

tant - to massage investors' expectations.

According to Ross Jobber, an analyst at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, IT companies such as Logica, FI Group and CMG, cannot afford the slightest slip. A hiccup at SAP, the German software group that is seen as the bell weather of the industry, would also send tremors through the stock market.

The IT staffing companies, which have seen their share prices clobbered in recent months, are unlikely to recover until the long-term demand for contractors becomes clearer.

Meanwhile, the introduction of a separate sub-sector for hardware suppliers will encourage investors to distinguish between different types of IT company.

Corporate activity will continue in 1999. This may be the year when Sema, the Anglo-French group, makes it long-awaited move into the US. Alternatively, it may be US firms who start buying British competitors again.

One thing, however, is certain: 1999 will not be a dull year in the IT sector.

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RETAIL
BY NIGEL COPE

IF LAST YEAR was the annus horribilis for the retail sector then 1999 doesn't look much better. The combination of the stock market gyrations of last summer and the threat of recession has weakened consumer confidence to such an extent that even though personal wealth is much more healthy than at the start of the last downturn, shoppers are spending cautiously.

UTILITIES
BY MICHAEL HARRISON

AS BUSINESSES GO, the utilities may be as dull as ditchwater. But they have yet to lose their capacity to surprise and entertain the stock market and this year does not look like being any different.

Last year ended with a welter of transatlantic takeover deals in the electricity sector, with ScottishPower buying PacificCorp and National Grid snapping up New England Electric System. More corporate activity is on the cards in the next 12 months. PowerGen has not given up on its ambition of merging with a US utility and the nuclear generator, British Energy, is on the prowl in the US.

Closer to home, expect to see a continuing exodus of American utilities from the UK electricity market. Two have already sold their regional electricity companies and others are likely to follow suit, or at least split the businesses in two, as the US owners of Midlands Electricity have done.

Consolidation looks like being the name of the game in the energy market, with several regional electricity companies likely to merge their supply businesses. But the water industry may also be poised for consolidation, with Thames Water leading the way. It argues that if the industry is to live with the 15-20 per cent price cut proposed by the industry regulator Ofwat, and still afford to invest an extra £2.5bn in environmental programmes, then cost-saving mergers are essential.

Ian Eysatt, the Ofwat director general, has blocked consolidation mergers once and he will take some persuading to change his views.

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SPORT

New faces for 1999: Italian's status is enhanced after hiatus while tennis player benefits from change in nationality

Williams invest in Zanardi's new zest

After finding glory in America, a former Formula One reject is back to prove that he can beat the best. By Derick Allsop

HE IS not so much a new face as a remould. Tried and rejected by Formula One in the early 1990s, he returns this year with a reputation made in America and an ambition to prove he has what it takes to succeed in grand prix racing.

Alessandro - or Alex as the Americans inevitably re-christened him - Zanardi is a 32-year-old Italian entrusted with the task of directing the sport's most successful team out of a relative slump and into the more familiar confines of the winner's enclosure.

Williams' trust is based on Zanardi's remarkable record over the past three seasons, and on the performances of the man he effectively replaces, Jacques Villeneuve. The Canadian repaired the damage to the perception of the transatlantic raider created by Michael Andretti's ill-starred adventure, by winning the 1997 world championship.

Villeneuve's defection to the embryonic BAR camp was a severe blow to Williams. Already intent on unloading Heinz-Harald Frentzen and unable to compete for the services of Michael Schumacher or one of the other leading Formula One drivers, the team decided to follow up on a contact with Zanardi.

In his first two seasons in the Champ Car series, Zanardi had

season was cut short by a spectacular accident at Spa. Still more damaging was the demise of Lotus and their withdrawal at the end of 1994 left Zanardi in the pits without a car after 25 grands prix.

He sought employment in GT racing in 1995 before trying his luck on the American tour with Chip Ganassi's team, a move which changed his fortune and his life. He could have stayed to attempt a hat-trick of series victories, but the professional and personal lure of Formula One was too much to resist.

He is said to have signed a three-year deal worth more than £10 million, time and compensation enough to carry him through what may be a difficult transitional period for the team before they launch their alliance with BMW in 2000.

"I had a thousand reasons for coming back to Formula One," Zanardi said. "I wanted to be back in Europe, to see my wife again and see my child grow up in an environment which means a lot to me and which I was missing."

"Professionally I can now express myself in a discipline which did not really provide the opportunity the first time. It was time to finish one chapter and start another. I might regret it one day, but at the moment everything is wonderful."

His perspective of wonderland has been challenged already by test sessions in the Williams, something of a culture shock for an American racing hero. "I did not expect it to feel so strange," he said. "It has changed completely and in every way. The most surprising thing is the driving position. Never before have I sat in a racing car with my feet higher than my backside. I am also used to driving much heavier cars. When I was at Lotus it was a prehistoric era, now it's space-age."

"Every lap I take in the Williams teaches me something new, which is exactly what we are here to do. The more I drive the more the fog clears from my mind. I'm here to learn and to communicate my experiences and opinions with the team. I will be eager to get back in the car after the New Year."

He and the team will be keener still to put their new car through its paces. "The team are currently third in the constructors' championship and a slight improvement will be a good enough start," Zanardi said. "Having seen the factory and the programmes that are under way, it is clear Williams are not expecting to go without success for the next couple of years. But I have no target for 1999, apart from doing my best. Everything will depend on the car."

Whatever the competitiveness of the Williams, Formula One is ready to embrace Zanardi again. Cheerful and popular in his original guise, the mature version also offers candid expression born of achievement and self-assurance. The coming months will determine whether he regrets his return.



Space-age traveller: 'I can now express myself in a discipline which did not really provide the opportunity the first time,' says Alessandro Zanardi

Allsop

'It was time to finish one chapter and start another. I might regret it one day, but at the moment everything is wonderful'

been rookie of the year, then champion. He leaves with a second title and an unparalleled record of 15 wins from 50 starts.

Williams are equally impressed with his style of driving. He is a renowned charger, a racer in the image and likeness of Villeneuve, Nigel Mansell and Keke Rosberg, men who embodied the spirit of Frank Williams and his long-time partner, Patrick Head.

Zanardi also brings experience, albeit experience garnered from another arena, driving heavier, less sophisticated cars. He knows his way in racing, and that is considered a crucial attribute since the team's other recruit, Ralph Schumacher, is 23 and still learning the ropes.

Zanardi was given his first opportunity on the grand prix circuit in 1991 by Jordan, who had unearthed the gem called Michael Schumacher only to have him whisked away by Benetton.

Zanardi made nothing like the same impact as the original Schumacher but after three races with Jordan and one with Minardi in 1992, he won a full-time drive and admirers at Lotus the following year.

He earned his one, and so far only, Formula One point in Brazil and his

GIVEN RUSSIA'S passion for sport, particularly disciplines demanding mental strength as well as physical fitness, the evolution of their tennis players has made Britain seem prolific by comparison.

Marat Safin, for example, an 18-year-old Muscovite who made an impact at the French Open last June, was moulded on Spanish clay with the assistance of sponsorship from a Swiss bank. The bank funded the first three years of the four years Safin has spent training in Valencia, being schooled in the ground-stroke skills that have enabled Spain to raid the world rankings.

Spain already had 19 representatives in the French Open men's singles (and nine in the women's event), before Safin, ranked No 116, underlined the quality of their methods by qualifying for his first grand slam tournament and defeating Andre Agassi in the opening round, 5-7, 7-5, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2.

Agassi, who had accounted for the 6ft-4in Safin in straight sets when the United States played Russia in the Davis Cup in Atlanta a month earlier, said he "felt something happen"

Russia's loss is Spain's gain as a teenager makes a name for himself. By John Roberts

in his right shoulder during the first set of their match in Paris. There was nothing physically wrong with Safin's second-round opponent, Gustavo Kuerten. Safin outlasted the Brazilian, 3-6, 7-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, becoming the first qualifier to defeat a men's grand slam singles champion in the open era.

Safin lost in five sets to the Frenchman Cedric Pioline in the fourth round. Safin then received a wild card for Wimbledon where, playing on grass for the first time, he lost in four sets to Ukrainian Andrei Medvedev in the opening round. The Russian finished his first year at the majors by advancing to the last 16 of the United States Open.

Due to mark his 19th birthday on 27 January, during the second week of the Australian Open in Melbourne, Safin, ranked No 48, seems to have what it takes to add to Russia's periodic influence on the sport.

Tennis, tailored for the lawns of capitalists, was hardly likely to be the

game to play in Russia in the early part of the century, and the advent of open tennis 30 years ago did little to encourage the Soviet Union to promote its players.

Alex Metrevel, a Georgian, reached the Wimbledon men's singles final in 1973 and Olga Morozova was a finalist at both Wimbledon and the French Open in 1974. Shortly afterwards, the Soviet authorities decided not to risk allowing athletes out of the country unless they were participating in Olympic sports.

The Soviet attitude changed when tennis was reinstated as a medal sport for the 1988 Olympic Games. The snag, as far as the players were concerned, was that the greater part of their prize-money was paid directly to the Soviet Tennis Federation.

In 1988, the Muscovite Andrei Chesnokov hired an agent. His example was followed by Natascha Zvereva, from the Belarus city of Minsk. Chesnokov and Zvereva an-

nounced that they did not agree with handing their prize-money to the national federation.

The situation was resolved in 1990. Chesnokov and Zvereva were allowed to keep their prize-money and arrange their own schedules, provided they paid their own expenses and made themselves available for events like the Olympics.

In April 1990, Chesnokov became the first Soviet to win a major tour event, the Monte Carlo Open. Six years later, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, from the Black Sea resort of Sochi, made the crucial breakthrough at a grand slam, winning the 1996 French Open men's singles championship, and also the doubles title.

Although there is a men's and a women's professional tour event in Moscow to help sustain interest, Safin's decision to train in Spain may be part of a trend among young Russians to work in other countries.

The 17-year-old Anna Kournikova has practically grown up in Florida. "I have known Marat since I was five," Kournikova says. "When we went to America the first time with a group, it was with 15 kids. I prac-



Safin: Bright future predicted

tised with him in Russia many times. I think he's got a great game. It probably helped him a lot that he's practised in Spain, not in Russia."

Safin was initially coached by his mother, Louisa Islanova, who was ranked in the top 10 in Russia. He has had a Spanish mentor, Rafael Mensua, since the age of 14, and names Jose-Francisco Altur, a left-hander from Valencia, as the player he most admired. We shall be hearing more of El Ruso.

Blowing the whistle on the middle men

The Man in Black: A History of the Football Referee
By Gordon Thomson
Prion, £9.99

IF THEY mark the millennium by striking medals in honour of genuine courage in football, any survivors from a recurring experiment in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s should be at the front of the queue. Argentina, experiencing a few local difficulties, sent for a dozen of Britain's finest referees on long-term loan.

Since those difficulties involved bribery, intimidation, and the occasional murder, that puts the odd shove at Sheffield Wednesday into its historical context.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The trailblazer was Ike Caswell from Blackburn, who came out of retirement to tackle this tricky mission. Refereeing Boca and Racing in 1938, Caswell sent off one of the country's most popular players for repeatedly arguing with him. He was stoned at the end of the game for his trouble, but was unrepentant. "My firmness in this match, and the fact that I was out for discipline and was not to be deterred by the fame of the players or the clubs, made an impression and changed

the situation," said Caswell after he made his escape.

Indeed, it is Gordon Thomson's thesis that football in South America would never have overcome its inherent chaos if not for the firm smack of imported discipline. If that sounds an unconstructive, colonialist viewpoint, then that is the tone of much of this book.

British referees might have their quirks and eccentricities, - he devotes a full chapter to the most extreme, Clive Thomas - but they are invariably more to be trusted with a whistle than Johnny Foreigner.

As a history, this is something of a hotch-potch, but it has some fascinating moments. How many know

why they are called referees? The answer - obvious when you think about it - is that they were originally adjudicators when the two umpires provided by the clubs could not reach a decision.

Those umpires stood behind the goal lines, as officials still do in Australian Rules and have started to do in rugby league, and saw very little. As more and more was referred (aha!) to the referee, his role expanded and the umpires were reduced to the duties of linesmen and given flags as compensation.

This revelation comes early in the book. Not all of it lives up to the same, illuminating standard, and there are some annoying stylistic

lunchees that would attract a yellow card from some arbiters.

There is a brave attempt, however, to assess the future of the referee in an era of rapidly expanding technological possibilities. The one measure that could help the poor old ref more than any, though, is being tried out by unassisted mortals in, of all places, Jersey.

It is a 10-yard rule, like the one that operates in both codes of rugby, where failure to retreat at a free-kick is punished by marching you back towards your own goal.

That would "wipe out dissent in the game". It has only taken 135 years to work that one out.

Dave Hadfield

THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS

- 1 Angry White Pyjamas, Robert Twigger (Indigo, paperback, £6.99).
- 2 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
- 3 Bleak and Blue - 22 Years at the Manchester Academy of Football Farce, Craig Winstanley (Sigma, paperback, £3.95).
- 4 European Football Yearbook 1998-99, edited by Mike Hammond (Sports Projects, paperback, £23.95).
- 5 Winter Colours - Changing Seasons in World Rugby, Donald McRae (Mainstream, hardback, £16.99).
- 6 Elliott's Golf Form 1999, Keith Elliott (Portway Press, paperback, £20.00).
- 7 Turning Point, Sean Fitzpatrick and Duncan Johnstone (Penguin, hardback, £16.99).
- 8 Jenny Pittman - The Autobiography (Partridge, hardback, £16.99).
- 9 Playing at Home, John Aizlewood (Hallamshire Press, hardback, £16.95).
- 10 Anuario del Calcio Mundial 98-99, edited by Salvatore Lo Presti (SET, hardback, £19.95).

Chart compiled by Sportspages, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London (0171 240 9604); St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530); www.sportspages.co.uk

Fifth Test: Warne overshadowed in his comeback by MacGill, but Australia in control as tourists give wickets away

England again fail to unravel spin

IT WAS the most anticipated return since Muhammad Ali's return to the ring. Shane Warne didn't have to use his fists but he was expected to punch his weight. But if the omens looked good with a wicket in his first over back, his figures were overshadowed by the sorcerer's apprentice, Stuart MacGill, who took 5 for 57, the best return of his Test career, as England were bowled out for 220.

The tale of two leg-spinners has been just one of the wonders that has so far graced this final Test at the SCG and it is a rare sight these days to see two of them bowling in tandem.

Of course, as entertainment goes, the first day with Darren Gough's mesmerising hat-trick and the Waugh brothers' sublime batting, will not be bettered in a hurry. Day two though, with England conceding a 102-run deficit on the first innings, served to underline just how well teams have to play to gain an advantage over Australia.

Warne came on to bowl half an hour before lunch, after both MacGill and Colin Miller had tested the surface for spin. His first ball, to Mark Butcher, landed just where it should have and even had the temerity to spin. His second, pitched a little wider, was seized upon by Butcher, who dispatched it to the mid-wicket boundary.

The third, a dot ball, was looped a bit higher as was the fourth, which did the damage. Misjudging the length of it, Butcher played back and was

BY DEREK PRINGLE
in Sydney

Australia 322 & 13 for 0
England 220

you still have to get the ball in the right place - which is what he generally did, though the old Warne did it with added wizardry and sleight of hand.

For MacGill, the emergence from Warne's shadow has been gaining in momentum ever since Warne went under the surgeon's knife last March. If he lacks Warne's accuracy and dipping drift, he possesses a far better googly, which few appear able to read. Certainly Alex Tudor, bowled by one through the gate, wasn't able to, but there was also evidence that better players like Nasser Hussain were similarly nonplussed.

England did not bat well and once again gave away wickets to soft dismissals. Alec Stewart, mindful that the spinners were going to prove a handful, was guilty of impatience. In a plan conceived by Glenn McGrath, Stewart was drawn into driving at one well wide of off-stump, a misjudgement that ended with Warne pouncing the edge at third slip.

It was a superb bit of pre-planned cricket by McGrath who knows that Stewart likes an early feel of bat on ball. By bowling eight inches outside off-stump, McGrath denied him that and it took Stewart until the sixth over to get off the mark. The trap set, and with Stewart itching to cream one out of the middle, all it took was the right carrot (a wider ball of fuller length) to spring it and give McGrath his 200th Test wicket.

Butcher, looking more solid than he has since Brisbane, played some fine strokes, while Hussain, mindful that he hasn't a big score to show for his hard work, played skilfully. However, after Butcher had made his misjudgement against Warne, Mark Ramprakash took up the cudgels with a superb cut for four off MacGill, a shot Hussain later matched when he drove Warne to the extra-cover boundary.

After lunch, the run rate, never a torrent, dried to a trickle. When the bowling is tight, you have to rotate the strike by taking ones. England are not good at this, and only 41 of their eventual 220 came from singles.

Nothing gnaws away at a batsman more than a static scoreboard. Australia's captain Mark Taylor knows this, which is why he rarely over-attacks, preferring instead to make batsmen work hard for their runs. That way the pressure builds, which is why Ramprakash, for the second time in successive Tests, was out to a half-hearted drive, a mistake that gave McGrath his second wicket of the innings. It was a particularly meek dismissal and in spite of the improve-



Australia's Shane Warne celebrates taking the wicket of England's Mark Butcher, trapped lbw with the fourth ball of his comeback Test match in Sydney yesterday. *Allsport*

TAYLOR-MADE HISTORY

LEADING FIELDMEN

Australia's captain, Mark Taylor, equalled the former Australian captain Allan Border's world record for the most Test catches by a fielder yesterday. He reached the milestone when he caught John Crawley on the second day of the fifth Test against England in Sydney.

Mark Taylor (Aus) 156 catches (103 matches)

Allan Border (Aus) 156 (156)

Greg Chappell (Aus) 122 (88)

Viv Richards (WI) 122 (121)

Ian Botham (Eng) 120 (102)

Colin Cowdrey (Eng) 120 (115)

lbw, the ball turning just enough to beat the batsman's hurried stroke and provide Warne instant success. By contrast, MacGill had to wait until his 13th over before taking a wicket.

Naturally the full house erupted and it was as if the blond bombshell, back in business once more against the Poms, had never been away. There was even a little salute to the massed ranks of the Barrow Army on the old Sydney hill, who'd been singing their repertoire of Warne songs since the start of the match.

In some ways though, the early success was like a false dawn, and Warne is not yet the article of old. For one thing there is not the fizzing turn and someone even suggested, rather cruelly, that along with smoking - he stands to earn \$200,000 (\$30,000) if he doesn't smoke until April - he must have given up spinning the ball as well. Variation, a key component of wrist spin, was also kept to a minimum, a sensible move until confidence levels return to normal, and pounds gained over the festive period are shed.

Australia do not tend to be nostalgic and Warne would not have been picked unless the selectors felt he was able to do the job. Naturally the spin-friendly nature of the SCG pitch has fast-tracked his comeback but even in ideal circumstances

ments he appears to have made on this tour, its tameness will keep a question mark hovering over Ramprakash's head. After all, you wouldn't find Steve Waugh getting out in that manner.

Likewise Graeme Hick, who out of all the enigmas, probably has the most variation, sometimes blowing hot, cold and lukewarm in successive innings. Like the Middlesex captain, Hick began jauntily. When Warne tried one of only a handful of flippers, Hick was quickly onto it, pulling it powerfully away for four. Two balls later he launched the leg-spinner for six, high over long-off, a majestic shot that tried to gain the psychological high ground.

It didn't work and like many of England's batsmen did, Hick got a start but did not go on. When he eventually fell, cutting

a short ball from MacGill to Warne at short extra-cover, a delivery he was left stretching for after giving himself too much room to play his shot, he'd made 23.

In the next over, Miller finally managed to prise Hussain from the crease. Earlier in the day Miller had troubled Hussain with his swingers and cutters. Now it was his off-spin that did the trick, though a sharp catch at silly point by Mark Waugh, his 100th in Tests, helped leave England 139 for 5.

It was at this juncture that John Crawley, picked here for his prowess against spin, began to swat and sweep his way towards the highest score of the innings. Crawley has had a wretched time of it this series and although he top-scored with 44, he never looked in command. Indeed, once he'd lost Warren Hegg, bowled through the gate by Miller, and Tudor, he too became a victim, as he edged a big turning leg-break from MacGill to slip.

The catch, taken by Taylor, was his 156th in Tests, a number that equals Allan Border's world record. After that MacGill, quickly removed Darren Gough and Dean Headley, the latter slogging, the former to a questionable lbw decision.

Getting five wickets while Warne was at the other end would have been immensely satisfying for MacGill, who moved to Sydney from Western Australia, to pursue his trade. For the moment he is top dog, with the old champion happy just to feed off his scraps.

Shortcomings exposed

IT WAS the same old story with the England batting. Five of the six specialist batsmen made a good start but none of them went on to reach even fifty and England surrendered a first innings lead of 102 to Australia which will almost certainly be decisive on a pitch which is increasingly taking spin.

Winning the loss made it highly likely that Australia will win the match, and England's batting on the second day confirmed this inescapable feeling.

It was a day's cricket which illustrated some of the serious shortcomings of England's current batting and which could only make one wonder what all those coaches and advisers are up to in the England dressing room. There is an extraordinary lack of common sense about some of the things that go on up in the middle which comes down to a lack of discipline in England's cricket.

To start with, England's batsmen appear not to have been taught to realise the importance of the single. If a side is going to build up a big total, it is extremely important that singles are played for and run. If batsmen are only going to rely on the big strokes, they will find that they are consistently short of runs. How often it is that big strokes do not achieve their objective!

The scoreboard needs to be constantly kept moving by batsmen who are picking up singles to upset the bowlers and the fielders and, above all, to rotate the strike.

England, in this innings, were going to be tortured by Australia's three spinners and they had to do their best to help each other and to make it as easy for themselves as they possibly could.

When a batsman is struggling as some did against Stuart MacGill's leg spin and Colin Miller's off spin, it is crucial that he should remember the importance of getting himself off the strike and giving his partner the chance to help. His partner too, should be on the lookout for a quick single which would enable him to get down to the business end and relieve the pressure.



HENRY BLOFELD
IN SYDNEY

It always makes life difficult for bowlers who are trying to wage a campaign against a particular batsman to find that he is constantly escaping to the other end.

When singles are continually being run, it often happens that a fielding side which is less than intense begins to look ragged. Overthrows and misfields begin to appear and these all help to lift the pressure off the batsmen.

The fielders, like the bowlers and the opposing captain, must be put under as much pressure as possible.

In England's first innings in this Test Match, this simply has not happened. During their entire innings, the England batsmen picked up only 41 singles and there was never any sign that they were deliberately playing for them.

The singles that were taken were run because they were there as a result of big shots that had failed or other strokes that had simply happened. They were never engineered by design.

If a side scores fifteen to twenty singles an hour, then over an innings of nearly six hours it will make a big difference to the total, and to the mental wellbeing of the batting side. The bowlers will likewise be disconcerted.

England were subjected to a painful demonstration of this by the Waugh twins on the first day of the match.

From the first ball to the last, they were busily engaged on the business of playing for, and of running, singles.

Not breakneck short singles but sensible singles to third man or fine leg or into the gaps in front of the wicket. The Waugh twins gave a wonderfully mature demonstration of how the playing for and the running of singles can benefit a batting side.

There were 22 singles in Steve Waugh's 96 and 31 in Mark's 121, and altogether a total of 73 off the bat in the innings. By the time extras had been counted the number would have been over 80, combined with all the attendant problems this will have caused England.

It is interesting too, that the Australian slips stand appreciably nearer the batsmen than their English counterparts and they also stand wider apart. I have lost count of the number of times one has said that if only the slips had been standing closer to the bat, catches would have been carried.

I do not remember the Australians missing many. The more one watches England play, the more amazed one has become at their lack of thought and planning.

SYDNEY SCOREBOARD

Australia won toss	
Australia - First Innings 322 (M E Waugh 121, SR Waugh 96, D W Headley 4-213)	
England - First Innings	
M A Butcher lbw b Warne	36
10 min, 70 balls, 4 fours	
A J Stewart c Waugh b McGrath	3
29 min, 17 balls	
N Hussain c M Waugh b Miller	42
174 min, 126 balls, 4 fours	
M R Ramprakash c MacGill b McGrath	14
52 min, 42 balls, 1 four	
G A Hick c Waugh b MacGill	23
54 min, 38 balls, 3 fours, 1 six	
J P Crawley c Taylor b MacGill	44
118 min, 75 balls, 5 fours	
I W K Heggs b Miller	15
53 min, 30 balls	
A J Tudor b MacGill	14
43 min, 40 balls, 2 fours	
D W Headley c McGrath b MacGill	8
22 min, 20 balls, 1 four	
D Gough lbw b MacGill	0
2 min, 2 balls	
M J Slater not out	0
6 min, 4 balls	
Extras (88, 10b, 1w, 1nb)	21
Total (227 min, 80.1 overs)	220

Ball 1-18 (Stewart), 2-56 (Butcher), 3-88 (Ramprakash), 4-137 (Hick), 5-139 (Hussain), 6-171 (Hegg), 7-204 (Tudor), 8-213 (Crawley), 9-217 (Gough)	
Bowling: McGrath 17-7-33-2 (nb3) 10-3-0-1, 7-3-12-1, 4-1-15-0; Miller 18-5-45-2 (10-2-30-0, 13-0-15-0); MacGill 20-1-2-57-5 (w1) 17-0-15-0, 1-1-20-1, 2-1-11-1, 1-1-11-1, 2-0-0-0-1 (nb1) 11-2-35-1, 3-1-5-0, 6-1-27-0	
Progress: Second day: 50: 82 min, 19.5 overs, 148-2; 82-2 (Hussain 22, Ramprakash 12) 30 overs, 100: 163 min, 40 overs, 158-2; 217 min, 52.1 overs, 206-5; Crawley 15, Hegg 30 overs, 206-5; 235 min, 73.2 overs, 220-5; 2.23pm	
Australia - Second Innings	
M J Slater not out	11
27 min, 20 balls, 1 four	
M A Taylor not out	2
27 min, 22 balls	
Extras	
Dead (10, 0, 27 min, 7 overs)	12
Bowling: Headley 2-1-4-0; Gough 3-1-3-0; Sack 2-0-0-0 (one spell each); to be seen: J Langer, M E Waugh, S R Waugh, D S Lehmann, T A Healy, S R Warne, S C G MacGill, C R Miller, G D McGrath, D Bradman, S D Dineen, M J and D B Hale (Aus)	
Compiled by Jo King	

Donald's quick burst turns tide

FOR FOUR hours yesterday the West Indies were identifiable as a genuine, competitive Test team, a rare occurrence on their ill-starred tour of South Africa. It took Allan Donald five overs to transform them back into their more familiar guise and commit them to another desperate fight for survival after two days of the fourth Test.

Their bowlers, supported by slick fielding, responded to the hamstring strain that ended Curtly Ambrose's day in the second over after lunch with the purpose and discipline they have rarely shown all series, to convert South Africa's overnight 273 for 2 to 406 for 8 declared, at tea.

That effectively put the match out of reach but it should have been motivation enough to prompt their unreliable batting to finally show its worth on an ideal surface. The optimism

BY TONY COZIER
in Cape Town

South Africa 406 for 8 dec
West Indies 89 for 4

was rapidly dispelled as Donald, fast and compelling, removed the makeshift opener, Junior Murray, with his fifth ball, his hefty partner, Philo Wallace, in his fourth over and the altogether more significant captain, Brian Lara, in his fifth.

Immediately, Donald left the field to seek treatment, like Ambrose, on a damaged hamstring, but his own damage had already been devastating. The tenacious South Africans are not inclined to relax on their laurels and, in Donald's absence, the medium-pacer David Terbrugge snared Shivnarine Chanderpaul as well as leaving the West Indies 89 for 4 at the close.

They are still 117 away from what seemed a straightforward

follow-on target of 206 but now looms as steep and imposing as nearby Table Mountain.

Donald's speed once more exposed the West Indies' batting problem that has dogged them since the break up of the great opening partnership of Gordon Greenidge and Desmond Haynes. But Murray, a wicket-keeper with no experience in the position prior to his promotion in the third Test, and the heavy-hitting, but leader-footed, Wallace, caught off edges, were small fish.

It was Lara that set Donald and his team-mates off on a Zulu war dance that could have done nothing for his suspect hamstring. Jumping back to fend his fifth ball off his chest, Lara's right heel pressed against the leg-stump and dislodged the ball.

Carl Hooper, with an elegant 55, and Daren Ganga, 16, batted through the final 50 minutes

in adding 55 but a fourth successive Test defeat looms for the West Indies.

Throughout the first two sessions they had shown rare heart in restricting South Africa to 124 for 6 off 56.5 overs on the day. Otis Gibson, the Barbadian fast bowler drafted in from the South African provincial scene following the injuries that sidelined Courtney Walsh and Franklyn Rose, finally ended the third-wicket partnership between the century-makers, Jacques Kallis and Daryll Cullinan, that started on the previous day at 235.

Kallis was caught behind off a perfectly-pitched, late over-swing for 110. Cullinan went on to make the highest of his six Test hundreds, 168, before Nixon McLean bounced him out but he could not find the rhythm of the first day and spent three hours adding 46.

Scoreboard, Digest, page 21

Doull's slow ball raises tempo

NEW ZEALAND held a strong grip on the third Test at Hamilton yesterday despite a scintillating, unbeaten 93 from Rahul Dravid. India ended the second day at 196 for 5, 170 runs behind New Zealand's first innings, after the visitors' opening pair were found wanting and went cheaply in successive overs.

Navjot Sidhu and Ajay Jadeja, easy prey for the attack so far in this series, again

New Zealand 366
India 196-5

exposed the middle order to the new ball, and both were back in the pavilion by the time India had scored just 17.

Sidhu was out to Chris Cairns, caught at the wicket after a cramped attempt at a square cut while Jadeja, who hit four boundaries, offered a simple catch to mid-off from a

slower ball from Simon Doull. The grim situation did not daunt Dravid and Sachin Tendulkar, who compiled 67. Tendulkar attacked with customary ferocity but he did suffer a few anxious moments. Dravid scored busily but more judiciously, pouncing mainly on full-length balls or those short outside off stump.

By tea, the pair had added 62 in 19 overs. Once the partner-

ship reached 100, Tendulkar launched into Craig McMillan and Nash, smacking three boundaries in two overs but he fell soon after to Nash.

Dravid, 39 at the time, added 54 in the remaining 80 minutes of play but two more wickets fell, both to Doull's slower ball. First, Sourav Ganguly was defeated and he then found the edge of Mohammad Ashraffuddin's bat.

Scoreboard, Digest, page 22

SATURDAY'S LOTTERY UPDATE.

Draw date: 2/1/99. The winning numbers: 4, 31, 39, 38, 41, 46. Bonus number: 22.
Total Sales: £55,821,685. Prize Fund: £25,119,749 (45% of ticket sales).

CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER
Match 6 (Jackpot)	1	£9,305,051	£9,305,051
Match 5 plus bonus ball	16	£178,943	£2,863,088
Match 5	606	£3,838	£2,319,216
Match 4	33,816	£117	£3,933,072
Match 3	722,542	£10	£7,225,420
TOTALS	756,681		£25,119,749

Total Sales including Instant and Wednesday Draw: £57,253,788
Total week's contribution to Good Causes: £28,200,000.

Breakings (prizes rounded down to nearest £1): £3,802.
© Camelot Group plc. Players must be 16 or over.

Maybe, just maybe. THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

Hollins draws satisfaction from job well done

CHEERFULNESS, a rare quality in football these days, keeps John Hollins going. On from a betrayal at Chelsea almost 11 years ago, on through the insult of being dumped from the Queen's Park Rangers coaching staff last season to make way for Vinnie Jones.

Things are looking up for Hollins, his educated mark on the controlled football that had Swansea thinking about a notable success in the FA Cup until Julian Dicks brought West Ham level at 1-1 with less than three minutes left at Upton Park on Saturday.

Hollins does not have to make the point that he knows what he is doing. That was



**KEN JONES
ON MONDAY**

evident in the success of a plan he drew up after going over reports of West Ham's recent efforts in the Premier League. Carried out with encouraging

diligence it was designed to force West Ham wide in the confidence that Swansea's powerfully built centre-backs, Jason Smith and Matthew Bould, together with their tall goalkeeper, Roger Freestone, would win aerial battles.

The smile on Hollins' face was partly due to the effectiveness of Swansea's policy. "It worked a treat," he said when we spoke afterwards. What pleased him most, however, was the confidence Swansea showed in construction. "I told them that playing against West Ham would be a relief from the rigours of Third Division football. That there would probably be more space, more opportu-

nities to show their ability."

The luxury of space sometimes confounded Swansea's midfielders but they soon learned to make good use of it, which explained why West Ham were thrown off their stride much to their manager's consternation. "We never got going," Harry Redknapp complained afterwards, the look on his face indicating that some harsh words had been delivered in West Ham's dressing-room. "We've got an excellent home record," he added, "but we always seem to make hard work of matches against teams from lower divisions."

Earlier this season West Ham were put out of the Wor-

thington Cup by Northampton and they came desperately close to another humiliation after Smith powered in on a centre from the arduous 18-year-old Stuart Roberts to put Swansea ahead in the 61st minute. Shortly afterwards, Roberts confirmed his promise with a curling shot that Shaka Hislop only just turned for a corner. "If that had gone in I would have been out on the field lifting him up," Hollins said.

By then Redknapp had begun to make changes, first bringing on the prodigy Joe Cole in place of Rivaldo, then Samassi Abou for John Hartson. It can be confidently

assumed that Harrison and Ian Wright incurred most of Redknapp's displeasure. "From what I could see Harry was in two minds about which of them to bring off," Hollins said.

With less than three minutes left, Swansea paid for a rare lapse in concentration, defending too deeply when Steve Lomas's cross-field pass released Dicks into space. Going on, Dicks unleashed a low left-footed shot that flew through a crowded goalmouth and beneath Freestone's attempted save to earn West Ham an undeserved replay.

Hollins reported that his players were deeply disappointed. "They did everything that was

asked of them and more," he said. "I'd said all week that they could make names for themselves and once we settled down the confidence was high."

Bound, still feeling the effects of flu, was sick in the dressing-room at half-time. "But he wouldn't hear about coming off," Hollins added. "We've got a great spirit going and tremendous support."

At the end, Hollins, waving a Welsh flag, ran to the end from where Swansea's 5,000-strong contingent had out-shouted the West Ham fans. "They were marvellous," Hollins said.

On Saturday night, at the London home he still keeps, Hollins found it difficult to sleep.

"I kept going over the match, thinking about one or two things we might have done and how close we were to pulling it off," he said. "But that's behind us. On Tuesday we've got another cup-tie, Gillingham in the Auto Windscreens Shield Cup."

As for the notion that nice guys haven't got a price in football, don't you believe it.

Goals: Smith (61) 0-1; Dicks (87) 1-1. **West Ham (3-5-2):** Hildon; Pearce, Rudgely, Dicks, Sinclair, Lomas, Potts, Berron (Cole, 65); Lazardis (Owen, 52); Wright, Harrison (Rice, 70). **Substitutes not used:** Brooker, Forrest (18). **Swansea City (4-4-2):** Freestone; Jones, Smith, Bould, Harrison; Roberts, Cusack, Thomas, Caine, Alois, Vasson. **Substitutes not used:** Bird, Jones, Jenkins, Price, O'Leary. **Referee:** S. Lodge (Barnsley). **Bookings:** West Ham: Ruddock, Cusack, Smith, Caine, Thomas. **Swansea:** Smith. **Attendance:** 26,039.

Keegan craves a packed Cottage



KEVIN KEEGAN will be watching the stands as keenly as the pitch when his Fulham side host Southampton in

BY NICK HARRIS

Southampton 1
Fulham 1

their FA Cup third-round replay a week on Wednesday. "I need to believe there's a football club at Craven Cottage," Keegan said after Saturday's draw. "What we are doing there is a waste of time otherwise," he added, saying if there were less than a capacity 19,000 at the replay he might start wondering whether he has a future at the helm of Mohamed Al Fayed's grand project.

"When I joined Fulham, everyone said it was a big club that needed reviving," Keegan said. "It was certainly a big club in the 1960s but I think it has lost two generations of fans. They're not going to come to Fulham if they can watch Gianfranco Zola at Chelsea. My ambition this year is to see the ground full. It's no good us creating something if the backing isn't there for it to support itself and I stick by that."

For the manager of a Second Division club - albeit the leading team - to feel so entitled to success would be slightly ridiculous were it not for the resources at his disposal.

Al Fayed's money, however, has enabled Keegan to build a squad (costing some £8m) that will most likely be playing in the First Division next season. With Saturday's opponents (costing around £5m) currently looking likely to be joining them, Keegan's ambitions do not look so far-fetched. "We've learned that we're not that far away from being a top-level side in terms of players," Keegan said.

"In Chris Coleman, who we signed from Blackburn, we've got the best player outside the Premiership by a million miles, and I watch a lot of games. Now we're at home in the replay and I wouldn't want to bet on either of us as it will be a tight game again, but we can certainly win it."

Fulham have already knocked Southampton out of the Worthington Cup this season and on Saturday's eve-

dence they are quite capable of repeating the feat. After taking a ninth-minute lead through Steve Hayward and defending it until two minutes into second-half extra-time - when Egil Ostenstad scrambled an equaliser after a defensive slip-up - they looked like achieving it at the first attempt. The home side felt they had been the victims of an injustice when Ken Monkou was sent off after 70 minutes for a foul on Rufus Brevett.

"I don't think there's a person in the ground who thought it merited a red card," Dave Jones, the Southampton manager, said. "It was a bad tackle that deserved a yellow card but it was clear that Ken went for the ball."

Jones could have no genuine argument that the final result was unfair. With Matt Le Tissier injured, the Saints had no player capable of effectively holding play and were reliant on the long ball and sporadic forays down the wing by Hassan Kachoul.

The introduction of Mark Hughes midway through the second half added a measure of determination but was not enough to galvanise the Saints into anything like the side they need to be if they are to avoid relegation.

"It's a big relief we're still in the competition," Jones said. "Hopefully we will have the players (Le Tissier, Stuart Ripley) back for the replay who will create more problems than we did at home. It's going to be difficult, we have to go there and be at our best."

Keegan, presumably, will be hoping that there will be a full house to watch them try.

Goals: Hayward (9-1) 0-1; Ostenstad (1-1) 1-1. **Southampton (4-4-2):** Jones; Collier, Lundevan (Monk, 25), Monkou, Miley, Kachoul, Palmer, Oakley (Hughes, 66), Dicks; Cornwell, Bourne, Selleschues not used; Stonegard, Bridge, Basham. **Fulham (3-5-2):** Taylor, Finnan, Nielsen, Brevett, Symons, Bracewell (Collins, 66), Coleman, Hayward, Smith; Horsfield (Tholpe, 39), Hayes (Lefmann, 75). **Substitutes not used:** Uthmaniyah, Avenede. **Referee:** D. Gallagher. **Scorers off:** Southampton: Monkou. **Bookings:** Southampton: Palmer, Finnan, Hayward, Symons, Horsfield. **Man of the match:** Kachoul. **Attendance:** 12,549.



Egil Ostenstad scrambles home Southampton's equaliser as Fulham's Chris Coleman and Rufus Brevett (No 3) look on helplessly. *Empics*

Bassett seeks allies amid gloom

BY JON CULLEY

Nottingham Forest 0
Portsmouth 1

The former Wimbledon manager has a proud record of beating the odds but can seldom have found himself working in less helpful circumstances.

After a dismal run of 17 Premiership matches without a win, his players have lost their self-belief and the new blood that might refresh their faith cannot be introduced unless key assets - namely Pierre van Hooijdonk and Steve Stone - are sold first.

Adams said that Bassett remained "up for the fight", but made one observation that may be significant. "Everywhere he has been before," Adams said, "he has had everyone behind him - the players, the fans, the board, the shareholders. I would question whether that is the case here."

It was not clear whether he was referring to the players or the directors, although an earlier remark about the heavy, uneven pitch gave a clue. "That's something else that needs money spending on," he said.

The key figures on the pitch board - Nigel Wray, Irving Scholar and Phil Soar - will

argue that they have done as they promised when Forest changed hands two years ago by putting around £16 million into the club, a substantial chunk of which went on selling old debts.

However, investment in the team promoted last season has been inadequate and Wray, principal bankroller of the buy-out, is no Jack Walker. Indeed, he is the archetypal City investor about whom football was right to be worried, with no real interest in the game other than as a financial opportunity.

Now, having seen the value of his stake in Nottingham Forest dwindle significantly, he

has no inclination to throw good money after bad.

Even so, it is the players who ultimately win or lose matches. Given the uncertainty hovering over Portsmouth, where ousted chairman Martin Gregory is being courted for his family's 97 per cent holding, his team perhaps had more excuse even than Forest for under-performing, especially after the way John Aloisi, their most effective striker, was sold, cut-price, from under Ball's nose.

But on Saturday, the side currently 20th in the First Division found the character to respond to the challenge.

Sammy Igoe, Jeff Peron and Alan McLoughlin were excellent in midfield. Steve Claridge, their first-half goalscorer, tireless in attack, and from front to back, the entire team defended with commitment.

"I gave them some real stick after we lost to Ipswich the other day," Ball said. "They could have sulked. Instead they responded in the right way."

Goals: Claridge (17) 0-1. **Nottingham Forest (4-4-2):** Bassett; Lytle (Gray, 64), Hildie, Christie, Jean; Stone, Johnson (Gushie, 77), Gemmell, Bart-Williams; Shipperley, Freeman (Harewood, 71). **Substitutes not used:** Dalg, Crossley (64). **Portsmouth (3-5-2):** Knight; Warrman, Thompson, Vlachos; Robinson, Igoe, McLoughlin, Peron, F. Simpson; Anderson (Nightingale, 64), Claridge, Selleschues not used; Phillips, Day, Perrett, R. Simpson. **Referee:** A. Wille (Chertsey-Streat). **Bookings:** Forest: Hildie, Shipperley, Harewood; Portsmouth: Vlachos. **Man of the match:** Igoe. **Attendance:** 10,092.



Board senseless: Supporters show their anger at Forest's run of defeats. *Allsport*

No brickbats but flying hot dogs floor Durkin

LONDON HAS its palaces, even Blackpool has its tower, but Oldham? Well, shall we say its claims are more prosaic. As you enter the town on the old Yorkshire road a bridge proudly proclaims the place as "the home of the tubular bandage".

Which was prophetic in some ways. You came to Boundary Park expecting to see the home team requiring urgent medical attention after an FA Cup accident and instead it was the referee, Paul Durkin, who had the St John's Ambulance staff clucking like mother hens round him.

Durkin was hit by something thrown from the crowd which no one can condone. Oldham could face a fine, which

BY GUY HODGSON

Oldham Athletic 0
Chelsea 2

for a cash-strapped club would be a disaster. Or part of their ground could be closed. You cannot allow these things.

That is the sanctimonious bit over. For the referee it was not funny, but a few smiles arrived on other faces when the missile was revealed as a hot dog. Mr Durkin will, however, report the incident to the Football Association.

Even Ken Bates, the Chelsea chairman and aspiring FA supremo, could detect a lighter side, suggesting that, as BSkyB had reported the object

was a rock, the vendor might sue, but whatever the texture of the bun it helped knock some wisdom into the official.

Mr Durkin was just about the only person in the ground who had failed to notice Celestine Babayaro blatantly using his hand en route to Dennis Wise lashing the ball into the Oldham net. He signalled a goal, the linesman had not contradicted him, and if the home players and a sausage had not gone ballistic an injustice would have been done.

Perhaps a medical orderly whispered into the ear he was treating, or the police, who arrested the culprit, explained the evidence, but the "goal" was disallowed and Babayaro

cautioned. Goodbye a potential riot and hello a routine Chelsea victory.

The scoreline did not lie. This was a thoroughly professional job by the Premiership high fliers over a team struggling in the Second Division relegation zone. Even the notorious local weather tried its best, serving up a storm flung down from the Pennines. But the partly Oldham chiselled out, by dint of John Sheridan's master class in midfield and sheer hard work, was surrendered when the legs ran out after an hour.

Perhaps the energy levels would have endured longer if they had been re-charged by a home goal. But, after Steve Whitehall's shot hit a post,

bounced off Ed de Goey's head, and then ricocheted crazily round the Chelsea area without finding the net, the plug was pulled.

"We made them look ordinary in the first half," Andy Ritchie, the Oldham manager, said. "The boys have shown what they can do and it's up to them to repeat it in the League. If we produce that kind of determination there won't be many Second Division sides who can live with us."

Living with Chelsea was another matter, however, as was laid bare by the quality of the goals. Stuart Thom failed to clear for the first and was punished by a deadly finish by Gianluca Vialli. And Bjarne

Goldbaek's skills down the right, that offered his player and manager the second on a plate, are rarely seen in the Nationwide League.

"We did our job," Vialli said. "Oldham did very well and battled and fought for everything. They made us work very hard, but in the end we deserved to win. We know what the FA Cup is about, it's about spirit."

He added: "We didn't play at our best but we did a difficult job well."

They did and, as Ritchie conceded, Boundary Park could have been witness to the start of a winning FA Cup run.

He was relieved his side had not capitulated in front of such obvious quality and was also breathing a little easier that Mr Durkin had not been hit by any of the more substantial objects thrown on the pitch. "Thank goodness it wasn't one of the local pies," he said. "That would have done more damage than a brick."

TODAY'S NUMBER

12

The age at which China's Fu Mingxia won the women's world platform diving title on this day in 1991, thus becoming the youngest world champion in any sport.

Everton enticed by realistic dreams



THE FA CUP may be increasingly devalued in comparison to Premiership and European competition but there was no disguising its restorative effects at Ashton Gate on Saturday night.

They may have been fortunate to defeat a willing Bristol City 2-0 but, as Everton returned north they were not talking about the Cup's lustre being dulled by penalty shoot-outs, sponsorship or the threatened scrapping of replays - they were too busy enjoying a rare moment of hope. The Merseysiders' hitherto miserable season now has a more enticing ambition than simply avoiding relegation. A Wembley date in May, and a sixth FA Cup triumph, is the dream.



GLENN MOORE

This may seem far-fetched given Everton's struggles to date, their Premiership campaign having featured a mere 13 goals in 20 games, but history is on their side. Four years ago they were in the Premiership's relegation zone when they travelled to Bristol for a fourth-round tie. A 1-0 victory on a

tricky pitch set them up for a spring revival which saw Everton rise clear of the drop before defeating Manchester United at Wembley.

Still not convinced? History also tells us that Everton, at home to Ipswich in the fourth round, are one of a select band of clubs likely to be holding up the old pot in May. In the past 20 years all but four winners have come from Everton, Liverpool, Manchester United, Arsenal and Spurs. This quintet have also provided nine of the beaten finalists.

Still not convinced? You've obviously seen Everton recently. Despite heavy investment by Walter Smith, the team is still in transition, as it evolves from the long-ball dependence on the now-departed Duncan Ferguson to the passing style

preferred by the former Rangers manager. They have been reasonably solid at the back, with good goalkeeping and Dave Watson continuing to defy his 37 years. The midfield is promising, though they are short of a right-flank player. The attack, however, remains a problem, as it has been for most of the decade.

Yet the least-prolific forward line in all four divisions would never get a better chance than on Saturday - City's defence is the worst in the country, having conceded 54 goals in 26 league games. Something had to give and, eventually, the dam broke on Everton's goalscoring as Ibrahim Bakayoko scored twice in the last four minutes to win a tie that should by then have been lost.

Bristol City are deep in trou-

ble at the wrong end of the First Division and have followed the bold step of employing a former Bristol Rovers manager, John Ward, with the even bolder one of replacing him with a Swede, Benny Lennartson. Some fans regard this last move by chairman Scott Davison, the former rock musician turned newspaper entrepreneur, as not so much bold as foolhardy. Ward, who gained promotion last season, had only just finished spending £2.75m on players and Lennartson has since added another £1m to the bill with a series of exotic signings. He has also taken time to settle in, with "Benny's jokes" one of the most visited sites on the City supporters' website.

However, four home matches without defeat

engendered hope which City's Ade Akinbiyi threatened to reward in the second period. The £1.2m summer signing from Gillingham worried Everton with his strength and pace and, having first crossed for Matt Hewlett to hit the post, should have headed in after 70 minutes. A minute later he drove just over and when Don Hutchinson survived a penalty appeal for a trip on Moldova's Ion Tistemitanu, Everton began to sense it was their day.

It was confirmed with Bakayoko thumping in a free-kick from 30 yards seven minutes later. "I didn't know he could take free-kicks," said Smith, adding: "He's got himself a job now."

Bakayoko added a second from Tony Grant's pass and later enlivened about playing

with passers of his quality in the team.

Better days may be ahead and David Unsworth, one of three survivors of the '95 match (with Watson and City's Mark Shall) said: "I hope this kick-starts us into mid-table. Four years ago it all clicked together about the time we came down here and we tried to re-create that by doing things like staying in the same hotel and playing 'All Together Now' (their '95 FA Cup song) on the coach. We were more under the cosh in that game but this was similar and now we have to take battling performances like this into league games."

Smith also hoped a good cup run would reflect positively on league form and well he might as it is worth noting that cup success usually delays

rather than dispels a crisis. Winning the trophy in 1995 did not save Joe Royle when Everton slipped back into relegation trouble two years later. Nor have last year's successful cup runs by Stevenage Borough, Newcastle United and Sheffield United kept Paul Fairclough, Kenny Dalglish or Steve Thompson in employment. The FA Cup may still glitter but it is the league that matters these days, at any level, and woe-bede a manager who forgets it.

Goal: Bakayoko (86) 0-1; Bakayoko (89) 0-2.
Bristol City (4-4-2): Phillips; Locke (Hutchings, 76), Shaw, Carey, Bell; Murray, 15; Cornall; Hewlett (Goodridge, 70), 5; Anderson, 10; Korpel, Alunif. Substitutes not used: Dyche, Thorpe, B. Anderson (84).
Everton (3-5-2): Moyes; Ball, Calderwood, Unsworth, Dunne, Dacot (Grant, 74), 1; Barry (Smith, 81); Bakayoko, Hutchinson (not used); Cleland, Simonsen (84).
Referee: J. Wignall (Huddersfield-on-Tees).
Booked: Bristol City's Akinbiyi, Goodridge.
Attendance: 19,506.



Leeds goalkeeper Nigel Martyn comes off his line to counter a Rushden attack in the final minutes of their 0-0 draw at the non-League club's Nene Park Robert Hallam

Diamonds' ambition shines through

THE FINAL whistle at Nene Park was greeted, appropriately, with cheers all around the ground. But had they known better, the good folk of Irthlingborough, Rushden and other assorted towns of the Northamptonshire shoe-brother belt that is home to the Vauxhall Conference aristocrats might have been excused for feeling a little let down.

Brian Talbot, Rushden's manager, was certainly right to claim afterwards he had created a "good little side". It was one that made a depleted Premiership team struggle all the way to avoid another famous chapter being written in the Leeds United book of FA Cup calamities. Indeed, had Adrian

BY ADAM SZRETER

Rushden & Diamonds
Leeds United

Foster, Rushden's top scorer, taken his headed chance in the first minute it might well have happened.

As it was, when Clyde Wijnhard hit the post for Leeds seven minutes later it seemed David O'Leary's side would assert themselves. The Australian Harry Kewell was in lively mood and briefly the non-League were hanging on desperately. Their former Luton Town goalkeeper, Ian Feuer, just about coped with a fierce drive from Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink. Tim Wooding

blocked another from Wijnhard and Kewell himself headed just over.

But in the last 10 minutes of the first half Rushden began to pick holes in Leeds' makeshift defence. There were excellent chances for Miguel de Souza, Carl Heggis and, finally, Foster again from a free-kick following Jonathon Woodgate's 43rd-minute foul on De Souza that earned the Leeds defender his first yellow card of the match.

There were no such openings for either side in the second half, despite a second booking for Woodgate that reduced Leeds to 10 men for the last 15 minutes. Rushden gave it all they had, but eventually it was a moot point as to which

side would be most grateful for a draw: the 10 men of Premiership Leeds, or a non-League side with a name more like an amalgamation between two local nightclubs than two local football clubs.

It would be wrong to assume this was a "romantic" occasion. There were goosebumps, but only thanks to the freezing cold after the sun had dipped down behind the end of the smartly-appointed ground occupied by the home fans. There were no bricks, or even bank clerks, among the highly-paid Rushden ranks, no supporters climbing nearby trees to watch footballing history in the making, and the very opulence of the surroundings made

it hard to buy into the traditional non-League cup lore.

In normal circumstances, a draw might be seen as the ideal result for the minnows - a bumper pay-day for the players at Eiland Road, a great night out for the supporters and players, and everyone happy. But thanks to the chairman, Max Griggs, and his Doctor Marten boots, Rushden & Diamonds have no need for an extra half a million or so. They are already wealthier than most clubs in the Nationwide League they confidently expect to be joining, if not this year then next, and they make no secret of their ultimate designs on the Premiership itself, citing Wimbledon as their role models.

Oddly enough, the rise and rise of Wimbledon began with a replayed FA Cup tie against Leeds United, when the Dons were still in the Southern League. Wimbledon eventually lost to Leeds, but reached the Premiership a few years later. The same fate might await Rushden & Diamonds, but surely there can only be one Wimbledon - please?

Rushden & Diamonds (4-4-2): Fear; Wooding, Bradshaw, Rodwell, Underwood; Hamish, McElhatton, Butterworth, Heggis, Foster, De Souza. Substitutes not used: Brady, Whyte, Wilson, Cooper, Corry (84).
Leeds United (4-4-2): Martyn, Woodgate, Hasselbaink, Harte, Granville, Hale, Bowyer, Hopkin, Kewell, Wijnhard (Smith, 87); Hasselbaink. Substitutes not used: Ribeiro, Jackson, McPhail, Robinson (84).
Scoring-off: Leeds: Woodgate. Bookings: Rushden: Butterworth, Foster. Leeds: Woodgate (2).
Man of the Match: Kewell.
Attendance: 6,431.

Hull find comfort in defeat

ON REACHING the dais in the interview theatre, Hull's diminutive player-manager, Warren Joyce, declined a seat because "no one will see me". Despite the scale of Villa's victory, the League's bottom team had troubled the Premiership leaders enough to encourage his belief that he can prevent them disappearing from view.

It is a tall order. The Tigers are an endangered Third Division species, adrift in the drop zone and more likely to be visiting Kidderminster or Hedenesford than Villa Park in the foreseeable future. Yet the way they kept sticking their heads above the parapet showed a spirit which belied their plight. Joyce, while heartened that Hull had competed vigorously, revealed a healthy reluctance to accept honourable defeat. "If you're getting turned over by a better team you can accept it," he said, bemoaning lapses in concentration and discipline. "But we contributed to our own downfall."

Healthy but harsh. A Villa side who scored three times in 20 minutes against Arsenal, the country's most parsimonious defence, did not breach Hull's lines until seconds before half-time. Although the outcome was beyond doubt by the midway point in the second half, Steve Wilson did not make his first genuine save until the 89th minute.

Gregor Rioch, the Hull wing-back whose father Bruce used to captain Villa, felt the tie had forged a bond between club and city. Some 7,000 travelling fans roared "Who are yer?" at Villa's household names and generated a fervour which could be crucial if maintained in the months ahead.

"The numbers and the noise they made were stunning," Rioch said. "I turned to one of the players when we were warming up and said: 'I can't believe the support we've got here.' That is what is going to help us to stay up. I'm confident we won't go down."

BY PHIL SHAW

Aston Villa
Hull City

3
0

So fired up was Rioch that he scythed down Steve Watson after only seven seconds to earn a yellow card. Fortunately the challenge would not prove typical of Hull's approach. Villa, who lost Alan Thompson on the eve of the game with damaged ankle ligaments and rested Dion Dublin, were thankful for that much but by John Gregory's admission made "heavy weather" of winning.

Stan Collymore scored twice, as well as crossing for Julian Joachim to head the second, though one suspects his overall display may have underwhelmed Gregory. The Villa manager tends to prefer Joachim as a foil to Dublin, and his intimation that Collymore might have pushed harder for a hat-trick suggested that he could be back on the bench come Saturday.

Gregory must also have been mystified by the failure to threaten at corners. Justin Whittle, Hull's £50,000 centre-back from Stoke, was able to look like a lower-division Gareth Southgate for an afternoon. Villa nevertheless won comfortably enough, and when Hull's Richard Peacock skewed a late shot horribly wide, the Holte End's sardonic "Savo, Savo" reminded us that New Year is a time for remembering old acquaintances. Gregory, a self-confessed FA Cup romantic, reckons it is high time they became reacquainted with the trophy after a 42-year estrangement.

Goal: Collymore (45) 1-0; Joachim (51) 2-0; Collymore (57) 3-0.
Aston Villa (3-5-2): Davies; Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry, Watson (Charles, 70), Scrimshaw, Draper (Grayson, 58), Hendrie (Lescott, 77); Wright, Collymore, Joachim. Substitutes not used: Vassell, Riech (84).
Hull City (3-5-2): Wilson; Wright, Eastwood, Hocking, Graves (Peacock, 55), O'Nana, Joyce (Hawes, 86), Brown (McGinley, 55). Referee: M. Hoyle. Fouls: Collymore (2), Hendrie (2), Eastwood (2), Wilson (2), Wright (2). Bookings: Hull: Rioch, Foster. Villa: Man of the Match: Southgate.
Attendance: 39,717.

Shearer's goal instinct intact Taylor stung by the set-pieces

IN THEIR January sale, the Newcastle United club shop was offering a generous discount on black and white slippers, but despite recent reports of his demise it will evidently be some time before Alan Shearer slips his footballing feet into something more comfortable.

The England striker's image emerged as a prescient choice to adorn the cover of the match programme, as his contribution won the match for Newcastle, runners-up to Arsenal in last year's FA Cup. Shearer's chest, one sparsely adorned with winners' medals in his career so far, set up a brilliant first goal for Gary Speed and he later scored what proved to be the winner against an insubstantial Crystal Palace side.

"It's incredible how things can slip out of your hands," was Ruud Gullit's post-match comment, one which alluded to Newcastle's recent run of injuries and poor results rather than his goalkeeper's sending-

BY PETER CONCHIE

Newcastle United
Crystal Palace

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off. To a neutral it appeared to be an open-and-shut case of careless hands when Shay Given rushed from his area to intercept a through ball intended for the swift Chinese midfielder, Fan Zhiyi. Given made contact with the ball some yards outside his area, and the assistant referee, Mr Webb, alerted referee Mike Reed to a handball.

The Premiership's most card-happy referee flourished the second of the afternoon's eight cards before 35,000 self-appointed fourth officials. The decision outraged the baying St James' Park crowd, but it emerged as a fair one, as Given clearly played the ball with a stiff arm rather than his chest, as he unconsciously claimed at the time.

Given's sending-off and the

subsequent goal - scored before his replacement, Steve Harper, had touched the ball - shaped a previously messy game. Newcastle briefly lost their heads amid the ensuing furor, allowing Clinton Morrison to elude the impressive Warren Barton for the first time in the match. His accurate cross was headed in firmly by Lee Bradbury.

Palace looked promising in the first period - their wing-back Jamie Smith drew Palace's right flank together neatly, while the midfielder Simon Rodger harried Dietmar Hamann and Aaron Hughes in the centre. What they lacked, unfortunately, was coherence, persistence and self-belief, especially in a disjointed last 45 minutes.

After Speed's splendid goal early in the second half, Newcastle looked likely winners, a view Shearer's strike confirmed. Barton's cross drifted over the head of Sun Jihai, who had been fooled by the England striker's shrewd,

faded run to the far post. Shearer calmly brought the ball down and finished, right-footed, from six yards.

In last year's third round, Ian Rush scored a rare Newcastle goal to start their cup run against Everton, while Shearer's semi-final strike against Sheffield United took them to Wembley. However, with their latest attacking totem, Duncan Ferguson, absent for up to two months with a groin injury, Newcastle should hope that the FA Cup draw is as generous with lower-league opponents this season as it was last.

Goal: Bradbury (19) 0-1; Speed (48) 1-1; Shearer (59) 2-1.
Newcastle United (4-4-2): Given; Barton (Georgiadis, 83), Dobbins, Solano, Charon; Speed, Hamann, Hughes, Glass (Harper, 64), 11; Shearer, Anderson. Substitutes not used: Pearce, Nestola, Brady.
Crystal Palace (3-5-2): Miller; Smith, Mullins, Moore, Nette, Sun Jihai; Rodger, Fan Zhiyi (Lingling, 73), Foster (James, 50), Morrison, Bradbury (Bent, 68). Substitutes not used: Preece, Nestola, Brady.
Referee: M. Reed (Birmingham).
Bookings: Newcastle: Barton, Speed, Palace: Sun Jihai, Foster, Fan Zhiyi, Mullins, Lingling. Sending-off: Newcastle: Given.
Man of the Match: Barton.
Attendance: 36,536.

GRAHAM TAYLOR's first thought, when he heard that Watford had to go to White Hart Lane in the FA Cup, was that it would be a good measure of the First Division club's progress since he returned. He was unaware that George Graham had much the same idea. Graham had been stung by suggestions that Spurs had an easy ride against a weakened Manchester United in the Worthington Cup and badly wanted a positive reply in the more searching competition. Sure enough, it was a match in search of weaknesses, and frenetic, with Watford scoring after 63 seconds to test Tottenham's resolution virtually from the kick-off. And at the end it was Taylor who answered for both managers. "I always knew we had some way to go," he said. "We're not a bad team, but Spurs are not far off being exceptional. You only have to look at the back line to see George's influence; and Ginola - we knew we couldn't sit back and

BY NORMAN FOX

Tottenham Hotspur
Watford

5
2

watch him play, but I could do that all day."

Ginola was decorative and destructive, stretching and diverting a none too well orientated Watford defence, but the key to Tottenham's recovery was Darren Anderton, whose reliability in his passes and centres turned the game.

Curiously, while Watford could be forgiven for not having the guile to counter Anderton and Ginola's skills, Les Ferdinand's power, and the overview of Allan Nielsen, their eventual downfall was an inability to counter something far more predictable: set-piece situations. Yet, for being caught out the most spectacularly, Spurs took the trophy.

That goal within the first minute was a relapse into the worst of the carelessness that a

year ago was almost a disease. Ben Iroha brushed past a slowly retreating midfield and defence before hitting the bar. Richard Johnson, who as a 16-year-old was turned down by Spurs, completed the tap in with revengeful delight.

Graham stormed to the touchline long before the hailstones and lightning gave an already dramatic match a theatrical backdrop. Spurs snapped to attention. Practice-ground routines came to their rescue, allowing Ginola to perform his dazzling improvisation. After 10 minutes leading off Watford's burst of ambitious energy, Anderton played a short corner to Ruel Fox, who crossed for Steffen Iversen to head in.

Giving away a penalty when Steve Palmer handled from Anderton's free-kick was another example of Watford's susceptibility to dead-ball challenges, and once Anderton had put that away he relished another chance to place a corner into the

Watford gap, this time for Iversen to score from Ferdinand's knock-down. Taylor confessed that, at 3-1, he could see Spurs strolling away. However, it was Peter Kennedy who stroled upfield to head in from Darren Bazeley. By then, though, Tottenham had confidence but they were grateful for a slovenly clearance by Micah Hyde, which offered Nielsen a successful 20-yard shot.

All of that in the first half. So, predictably, the second was comparatively tranquil. Ginola did everything but talk the ball in, and offered the centre that led to Fox scoring Spurs' fifth. Goal: Johnson (11) 0-1; Iversen (14), 1-1; Barton (14, pen) 2-1; Nielsen (20) 3-1; Kennedy (24) 4-1; Nielsen (43) 4-2; Fox (87) 5-2.
Tottenham Hotspur (4-4-2): Walker; Carr, Campbell, Young, Shotton (Edinburgh, 60); Fox, Nielsen, Anderton (Clemence, 66), Grady, Iversen, Ferdinand. Substitutes not used: Calderwood, Allen, Bardsley (84).
Watford (4-4-2): Chamberlain; Iroha, Palmer, Pegg, Robinson, Bazeley, Hyde (Rosenfield, 46), Johnson, Kennedy, Noel-Williams, Smart (Wright, 65). Substitutes not used: Day (84), Hazen, Gibbs.
Referee: P. Jones (Leicester).
Bookings: Tottenham: Carr, Walker; Iroha.
Man of the Match: Ginola.
Attendance: 36,022.

Owen's Cup debut is overflowing

Pilgrims gone for a Burton this time

BY CLIVE WHITE
Plymouth Argyle 0
Derby County 3

FIFTEEN YEARS on, the story was not so very different to last time, in as much as it was non-stop Plymouth attack against an obstinate Derby defence with the visitors' goal enjoying something of a charmed life. But whereas on that occasion the Pilgrims, who went on to reach the semi-finals, deservedly earned a second bite at the cherry - Steve Cherry, to be precise - this time the Derby goalkeeper, the erratic Mart Poom, was to be spared such an ordeal because of his team's unusually sharp opportunism.

In a season when Derby's lack of finish has cost them their place among the Premiership's pacesetters, this will have been the most pleasing aspect of their win for their manager, Jim Smith. That and the fact that they had survived without seven first-teamers.

If goalscoring is all about confidence then Dean Burton, standing in for the suspended Paulo Wanchope, will have received an appropriate lift with his brace here, while Dean Sturridge certainly ought to take some encouragement from his contribution. On Saturday he was Plymouth's chief tormentor.

It was the sort of cup tie that had Argyle fans pining for one of their old favourites, the legendary Tommy Tynan. What profit their current commercial manager would have made of a 16-5 corner cut in Plymouth's favour, Smith admitted: "Their delivery from corners and set pieces was excellent - we had to defend well."

Unfortunately for Plymouth they were undone too early by Sturridge, who skipped past a defender to deliver the cross from which Burton headed home unchallenged at the near post after 15 minutes, and then six minutes later forced Paul Wotton into a reckless challenge from which Stefano Erano prospered from the spot.

Nothing if not game, Plymouth maintained their all-out assault on the Derby goal, and Poom's handling was such that the visitors were never completely secure. When he came and missed, dropping a golden opportunity into Lee Phillips' lap, the young striker somehow failed to locate the empty net. However, the Estonian redeemed himself with a double save from Wotton and Earl Jean shortly before half-time.

Erano's second shot from the spot, after 52 minutes, struck the post but seven minutes from time Plymouth had well and truly gone for a Burton as the Jamaican international punished slack defending to shoot high into the home net.

Goals: Burton (15), Erano (21), Sturridge (33), Wotton (35), Phillips (40), McGinley (42), McGinley (44), McGinley (46), McGinley (48), McGinley (50), McGinley (52), McGinley (54), McGinley (56), McGinley (58), McGinley (60), McGinley (62), McGinley (64), McGinley (66), McGinley (68), McGinley (70), McGinley (72), McGinley (74), McGinley (76), McGinley (78), McGinley (80), McGinley (82), McGinley (84), McGinley (86), McGinley (88), McGinley (90).

Referee: P. Jones (Leamington Spa).
Man of the match: Owen.
Attendance: 16,557.



Man of the match Michael Owen, of Liverpool, is tackled by Port Vale's Michael Walsh during yesterday's FA Cup third round match at Vale Park

BY PHIL SHAW
Port Vale 0
Liverpool 3

MICHAEL OWEN, born when his father Terry was a journeyman centre-forward with Port Vale, showed no sentiment to the Potteries club yesterday. On a day of firsts for Liverpool - who had surely never changed in a portakabin before - Owen marked his FA Cup debut by converting the penalty which put the five-time holders in command on what was also Gerard Houllier's introduction to the competition.

The 19-year-old England striker duly became the first Liverpool player to score in his first game in the League, Europe, the League Cup and the FA Cup. Absent in when Liverpool went out to Coventry in last year's third round, he went about his task as if making up for lost time, although the losers argued with some justification that Owen went to ground rather too readily for the spot-kick award.

Paul Ince quickly killed the game as a contest by doubling the advantage. Owen, undaunted by chants of "cheat", set up the third goal in stoppage time, Robbie Fowler's first since his hat-trick at Aston Villa in November.

Thirty-five years ago this month Liverpool had come to Burslem for a replay, squeezing through in the last minute of extra-time before 43,000 paying customers and an estimated 10,000 gatecrashers. The rematch was a more orderly affair, with fewer than 17,000 ticket-holders filling the three sides of Vale Park currently in use and the home side unable to emulate the valiant deeds of their predecessors.

Vale's FA Cup scalps include Tottenham and Everton during John Rudge's reign as manager. But the quagmire which helped them upset Spurs was replaced here by a smooth surface, ideal for Liverpool's ground-level game, and Rudge has struggled to replace players like Jon McCarthy and Steve Guppy who did so much to break Goodison's grip on the prize.

A flu outbreak forced the First Division strugglers to give a debut to Neil Brisco, a free-transfer recruit from Manchester City. The 20-year-old, playing with a cast on a fractured hand, tackled and chased his heart out. However, with Vale low on craft and confidence, it was only a matter of time before Liverpool translated possession into goals.

The spectacle required the home team to score first. Peter Beadle, driving a free-kick into the midriff of the diving David James, and Brian McGinley, volleying across the six-yard area following another set-piece, hinted at an upset, but Owen's ability to run at opponents like a one-man swarm was already worrying the thirty-somethings staffing Vale's back three.

Paul Beesley was booked for the second of two fouls on him, a factor that may have weighed on his mind as Owen surged towards him 11 minutes before half-time. Beesley offered no challenge, yet when Dave Barnett snaked out a leg it was all the invitation the teenager needed to go tumbling.

Echoes of Argentina in St Etienne, except that this time Owen got up to take the penalty himself. Putting the memory of a recent miss at Wimbledon behind him, drilling his 16th goal of the season.

Vale, who have conceded 50 goals in the League, were indebted to McGinley for hooking Phil Babb's header off the line four minutes later. But from the ensuing corner, by Patrick Berger, Babb again won the ball in the air and Ince glanced Liverpool's second.

The second half could have become a training exercise for Houllier's men. Vale, to their credit, kept plugging away and might have set up a pulsating final half-hour had Babb not raced back to make a superb sliding tackle on Tony Naylor.

Rudge sent on a trio of replacements, but there is no substitute for Owen's scorching pace. In stoppage time, he burned off Michael Walsh near the corner before cutting the ball back to Fowler who hit home with power from 12 yards out.

Humphreys' persistence pays dividends

BY DAVE HADFIELD
Sheffield Wednesday 4
Norwich City 1

IT TAKES the Cup to bring the best out of Ritchie Humphreys. In fact, it takes the Cup to bring anything at all out of him in the way of goals.

Wednesday's young forward had not scored since putting two past Grimsby exactly two years ago, but he claimed two more at Hillsborough yesterday to set up a meeting with Stockport in the fourth round.

With no immediate prospect of a reunion with Paolo Di Canio - who has indicated that he plans to return to Sheffield when his current sick note expires at the end of the month, provided they have not sold him first - Wednesday's other Italian, Benito Carbone, forged a partnership with Humphreys that was too much for Norwich.

The goals that tilted the match Wednesday's way owed as much to Carbone's pace and precision as Humphreys' persistence. It was a superb, angled ball from the little Italian that sent Humphreys storming through to break his drought, although he showed composure in squeezing the shot under the body of the advancing Michael Watt.

Between that and Wednesday's second goal 15 minutes later Carbone's touch deserted him. But it was back when he latched on to Nicolas Alexanderson's pass on the right and flung an inviting chip into the middle for Humphreys.

His initial header was clawed out, but the tenacious Humphreys had one shot blocked before following up to finally stick it away. Humphreys was also involved in Wednesday's third, meeting Andy Hinchcliffe's cross-field pass with a header to send Pjetur Rudi striding away to clinch it.

With Rudi and Wim Jonk stroking the ball around expansively in the middle of the field, Wednesday were cruising to the next round, although they were rattled out of any complacency before half-time when Iwan Roberts, whose shot past the post midway through the first half had been the sum of Norwich's threat, rose at the near post to glance Neil Adams' corner into the net.

It should have been a morale-boosting time to score, but the Canaries needed to strike again early in the second half if they were to put Wednesday under serious pressure.

With Des Walker controlling matters coolly at the back, though, further slip ups always looked unlikely and Wednesday were close to putting it beyond all doubt when Alexanderson had the ball in the net after one of the game's many offside decisions, and Watt had saved bravely at the feet of Wednesday substitute, Danny Sonner.

When Dejan Stefanovic scrambled a fourth, and his first of the season, from Hinchcliffe's corner, the score line reflected the ease of Wednesday's victory. Norwich, as close to the play-off places in the First Division as Wednesday are to the Premiership relegation zone, had not been in contention.

"We came here to try to win the tie," said their manager, Bruce Rioch. "But the three main attacks Sheffield had in the first half all resulted in goals. That is a sign of the capability of Premiership players, that they punish you when you make errors and don't defend against them."

Both Rioch and his opposite number, Danny Wilson, condemned the way that the draw for the next round had been made at half-time in this tie.

But Wilson is boosted by the arrival from the shadows of a potential match-winner for future rounds. "I thought Ritchie Humphreys was excellent today," he said. "The work-rate he has been putting in deserved some reward and he got that today."

"We've shown confidence in him and he knows he's got a future at the club. He's a Sheffield lad through and through and there's nothing he would like better than to do well here."

Goals: Humphreys (18), 1-0; Humphreys (33), 2-0; Rudi (40), 3-0; Roberts (45), 3-1; Stefanovic (73), 4-1.

Sheffield Wednesday (3-5-2): Smith; Thomas (Briscoe, 77), Walker, Stefanovic; Alexanderson, Altherton, Jones (Sonner, 61), Rudi, Hinchcliffe, Humphreys, Carbone. Substitutes not used: Magilton, Morrison, Pressman (64).

Norwich City (4-4-2): Watt; Sutch, Jackson, McKay (Fleming, 79), Fuglestad; Adams, L. Marshall (Foster, 79), Grant, Lewellyn; Roberts, Eadie. Substitutes not used: A. Marshall (64), Russell, Coote.

Referee: P. Jones (Leamington Spa).
Bookings: Norwich: Jackson.
Man of the match: Humphreys.
Attendance: 18,737.

Dale's Ninian return rocks Cardiff resolve

BY JAMIE CORRIGAN
Cardiff City 1
Yeovil Town 1

YEovil TOWN have far bigger scalps than Cardiff City to their name and will feel that the only FA Cup shock at Ninian Park was that they did not emerge victorious. If this game was anything to go by they should have few worries in the replay.

But Yeovil could so easily have avoided the inconvenience. In fine cup tradition Carl Dale returned to Cardiff, the club that released him in the summer after seven seasons and 108 goals, and scored the goal that had seemingly put the West Countrymen on their way to another famous victory.

However, if giant-killing is Yeovil's forte then killing off sleeping giants - as Cardiff like to call themselves - does not come so naturally. By the time Kevin Nugent rose to rescue Cardiff six minutes from time, Yeovil should have had the game, and their name, in the bag.

Missed chances from Steve Thompson and David Piper allowed the Third Division leaders to snatch an undesired replay.

Cardiff have been going through a rare resurgence of late, with the promise of new money arriving to drag the club out of the doldrums adding to the optimism created by a

Heskey's vision clears way past Birmingham

BY PHIL ANDREWS
Leicester City 4
Birmingham City 2

THE LEICESTER manager, Martin O'Neill, must be a worried man after yet another impressive victory by his thrifflily-assembled side. For it cannot be long before one or more of the key players responsible for their progress in the League, and now both domestic cup competitions, attract the attention of Premiership clubs who have less to show for their greater wealth.

And nobody will have made a greater impression than Emile Heskey, who performed the remarkable feat for a striker of putting on a match-winning display without getting his name on the score sheet.

But he did everything else. He had one goal-bound effort kicked off the line, laid on two of his side's goals with clever little back heels into the paths of Frank Sinclair and Tony Cottee, and selflessly produced a string of crosses which would have deepened Birmingham's humiliation had his team's finishing been as sharp as his vision.

Trevor Francis, the latest manager to feel the full force of his talents, said: "Heskey is getting better all the time and he is not far from his full England

EasyPlay

Game Results 2/1/99

This Saturday there were 13 score draws:

CARDIFF	V YEovil	SHREWSBURY	V HALIFAX
SOUTHAMPTON	V FULHAM	TORQUAY	V BRIGHTON
WEST HAM	V SWANSEA	FALKIRK	V AIRDRIE
COLCHESTER	V LUTON	BISHOP	V SPENNYMOOR
CHESTER	V SOUTHEND	ENLEY	V MARINE
HARTLEPOOL	V CAMB'GE U	GAINSBORO'	V VINCUN
		LEIGH RM	V WHITBY TOWN

*Matchmaker Adjudicated Results for postponed matches

Home wins (0): NONE
Away wins (1): GREENOCK MORTON V ST MIRREN
No score draws (0): NONE
Score draws (0): NONE

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SPORT

RUGBY COACH IN THE FIRING LINE P17 • ZANARDI ON A FAST TRACK P16

FA Cup: Liverpool lie in wait in the fourth-round as Ferguson's men secure their revenge over Middlesbrough

Cole fuels United comeback

BY GUY HODGSON

Manchester United 3
Middlesbrough 1

IF THERE were doubts about Manchester United's commitment to the FA Cup they can safely be discarded now. Yesterday they ran, they scrapped and they clung on to a place in the fourth round by naked willpower. Their reward is substantial, a home tie against Liverpool.

That plum is an apt prize for yesterday's game because this was no stroll in the cold Old Trafford air. United were stretched to the limit by Middlesbrough who, when they took the lead after 50 minutes, were on course to repeat last month's win here in the Premiership. Instead, there was a rousing home comeback.

Three goals in the final 22 minutes from Andy Cole, Denis Irwin (penalty) and Ryan Giggs overwhelmed Andy Townsend's opener and gave the scoreline a unrepresentative look that became even more distorted with the help of television replays.

These showed that Neil Maddison made little or no contact with Nicky Butt when the latter earned a penalty for United's second. "The referee bought Butt's dive," was Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager's reaction, while even Alex Ferguson described it as "softish".

Maddison was also adamant. "It cost us the game," he said. "I made no contact whatsoever. I said to Nicky: 'I can't believe you've gone down'. The linesman didn't flag. The referee was on the blind side. I don't know how he could make the decision from there."

A feature of the league encounter at Old Trafford was the physical mauling Brian Deane and Hamilton Ricard gave United's back four. So it was with some relief that Ferguson could place the fit-again Jasp Stam in the team.

The difference was stark. Whereas United's defence began nervously three weeks previously and the visitors were the epitome of calm, it was Boro yesterday who opened like they had not had time to



Nicky Butt, the Manchester United midfielder, feels the weight of a tackle by Middlesbrough's Paul Gascoigne at Old Trafford yesterday

Reuters

learn their lines. Ryan Giggs and Wes Brown ripped at the left flank and substantial damage was expected at any moment. Roy Keane missed a volley after 10 minutes, blazing high, but instead of heralding a sequence of chances, United suddenly were confronted by a Boro side who had sorted themselves out and the first half became a stalemate rather than a statement of intent.

That changed five minutes after half-time when the visitors showed their improvement with a goal on the break. Colin Cooper launched a long pass, Deane headed on and Townsend deftly slipped the ball past Peter Schmeichel at the far post.

United had won only one of their previous eight matches, but Ferguson said he was concerned rather than worried by this setback. "The way we

spread the game and passed it around," he said, "they were going to tire. When we went ahead they couldn't come back."

His side had to get there first and it required a goal of splendid simplicity to make the first breach in the resilient Boro ranks. Giggs drifted in from the right wing before turning sharply to play in Cole just beyond Gary Pallister's shoulder. The striker's pace and power

did the rest, lashing the ball in at the near post.

Robson did not want a replay and brought on Phil Stamp and Mikkel Beck to force the issue either way, but to his chagrin the 82nd-minute penalty decision ensured his gamble backfired. "I'm checking to see if there are two moons," Ferguson said, "because we got a penalty. We never get penalties at Old Trafford."

Boro had to pour forward in a 10-minute pursuit of glory but, instead of prising United apart, they were shredded with an incisive and devastatingly quick break from Giggs. The Welshman exchanged a one-two with Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and then slipped the ball through the advancing Schwarzer's legs.

"Our concentration was excellent today," Ferguson said. "I think we have our breath back

after that session when we played nine games in 31 days." Goalscorers: Townsend (50) 0-1; Cole (68) 1-1; Irwin (pen 81) 2-1; Giggs (90) 3-1. Manchester United (4-4-2): Schmeichel; Brown (P Neville, 74), Berg, Stam, Irwin; Giggs, Butt, Keane, Solskjaer (Solskjaer, 72); Cole (Sheringham, 83), Yorke, Subotic (not used); Cruyff, Van der Grint (84). Middlesbrough (3-5-2): Schwarzer; Cooper, Woodfin, Pallister, Fleming, Manton (Stamp, 61); Gascoigne (Beck, 74), Townsend, Gordon, Deane, Ricard. Substitutes not used: Stockdale, Blackburn, Bensford (94). Referee: G Barber (Rugby). Bookings: Middlesbrough: Deane. Man of the match: Cole. Attendance: 52,232.

Meeting of giants for Old Trafford

BY DAMIAN SPELLMAN

MANCHESTER UNITED jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire when victory over Middlesbrough handed them an FA Cup fourth round tie with their arch-rivals Liverpool.

United's manager, Alex Ferguson, savoured the prospect of a Cup clash of the giants. "It's a belter, it's fantastic," he said. "There are some terrific ties in the next round, but Manchester United v Liverpool is always a big game."

Liverpool's England striker Michael Owen, who opened the scoring in his side's comfortable 3-0 victory at Port Vale yesterday from the penalty spot, said: "I don't think you can get much tougher than that."

"It's a difficult draw for us, especially being away from home. We thought this was a reasonably tough game, but the next round is a massive game. It's a great tie. Manchester United are a great side flying high in the league."

Portsmouth, who put out the Premiership strugglers Nottingham Forest at the City Ground, face a wait to see whether they will face top-flight or non-League opposition.

Pompey drew either Leeds United or the Football Conference side Rushden & Diamonds, who played a 0-0 draw at Nene Park with David O'Leary's side hanging on after having the defender Jonathon Woodgate sent off.

Portsmouth's striker Steve Claridge, who scored the only goal at Forest, was gearing up for a major day at Fratton Park. "I think it will more than likely be Leeds," he said. "It's a difficult tie, but we're at home and that's all we can ask. It's a massive boost for the boardroom as well - it means we'll get paid next month, which is handy!"

Newcastle's 10-man heroics against Crystal Palace set up a home tie with Bradford City, who currently stand fourth in the First Division and secured their place in the hat with a 2-1 home win over Grimsby.

Newcastle's manager, Rudi Gullit, said: "As in any cup competition, it's vital to come out of the hat first. Our match against Crystal Palace showed just how important our magnificent supporters are."

"Bradford City are having a good season in the First Division, so we shall afford them every respect."

Wimbledon face a London derby against Tottenham. The tie will be a dress rehearsal for the Worthington Cup semi-final, the first leg of which is scheduled to take place four days later.

FOURTH-ROUND DRAW

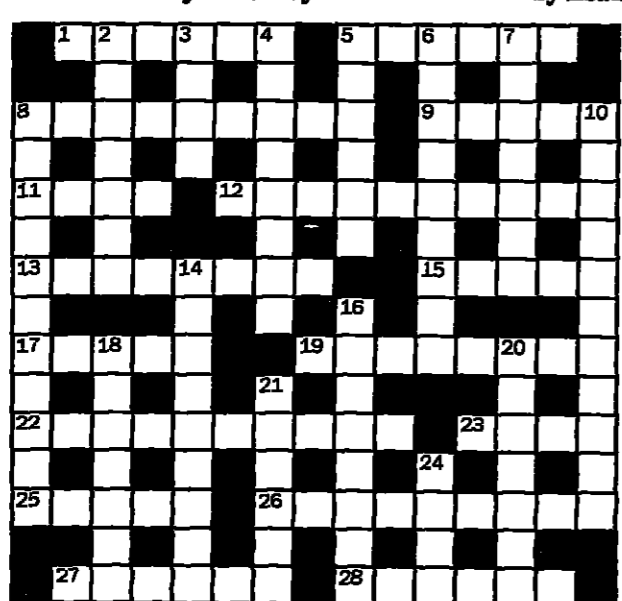
Sheffield Wednesday v Stockport Wolves v Preston or Arsenal
Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient
Wrexham v Huddersfield
Preston v Rushden or Leeds
Oxford United v Chelsea
Sheffield Utd or Walsley County v Cardiff or Yeovil
Swindon or Barnsley v Bournemouth
Newcastle Utd v Bradford City
Leicester City v Coventry City
Aston Villa v Southampton or Fulham
Blackburn Rovers v Sunderland
West Ham or Swansea v Derby
Manchester Utd v Liverpool
Wimbledon v Tottenham
Everton v Ipswich

Ties to be played 23 or 24 January

THE MONDAY CROSSWORD

No.3810 Monday 4 January

by Esau



- ACROSS**
- Traditional type of horse - a hard worker (6)
 - Result of smashing young girl and teacher getting back together (6)
 - Pole's favoured for this fast track promotion (5,4)
 - Ring back when one's in, to deliver a bill from the US (4)
 - What the Observer may do, given a bill from the US? (4)
 - Such an alibi's ideal, designed to deny importation (6)
 - of drink (10)
 - Gave publicity to beer from Yorkshire (8)
 - Steps taken with sound-track of Disney's? (5)
 - Wood used with hesitation - it should make joints 12 (6)
 - Exert pressure to admit facial adornment takes priority (4,4)
 - Unusual poison present - it's all up in the air (10)
 - Network in a muddle, as broadcaster's stalling (4)
 - One with 10 in Ankara goes

- to university town in Finland (5)
No longer in the charts (3,3,3)
Ideal for consumers lacking credit - convincing? (6)
Forceful post-bloke's firm at first (6)

DOWN

- Concerned with Thespian making a pile? (7)
- Obscure character subject to screening, once booked (4)
- Choice of consecutive letters to join up in the usual way (8)
- Endeavour to identify this writer's hero, right? (8)
- Where ringers are set up, and changes take place? (4,5)
- Ignoring rules, feeling poorly when gale's blown in (7)
- One's got lineages sorted out (11)
- Status granted, after arriving in a state? (11)
- Disappointing failure of an incendiary character (4,5)
- Fire critic, no longer in charge? Flipping wonder-full (8)
- Compassionate socialist in the family (7)
- Provide extravagant catering for the staff (7)
- Gets one's teeth into recording, to make a selection (6)
- About to squeeze in sound of a steam train? (4)

S Africa chief 'sorry' after Test outburst

THE PRESIDENT of the United Cricket Board of South Africa has been forced to apologise for an outburst aimed at the country's sports minister, Steve Tshwete.

Ray White issued a personal statement at the close of the second day's play in the fourth Test against West Indies yesterday after finding himself in trouble for unscripted remarks at the end of a speech on the UCBSA's "transformation charter" for the game.

In a speech broadcast live on national television during the tea interval, White ended what was billed as "a pledge to the nation" by saying: "To those seeking to interfere with our team, we don't want it and we don't need it."

The remarks were clearly aimed at Tshwete, who had previously criticised the lack

CRICKET

BY PAUL SHORT
in Cape Town

of black players in the national team.

Tshwete was quoted in yesterday's South African newspapers underlining his concerns. "I am worried we will be sending white teams to the rugby and cricket World Cups this year," he said. "If that is the case, it will be difficult for me to support them."

White's comments angered fellow members of the multi-racial transformation committee which has been set up to hasten change.

In his later statement, White said: "I wish to apologise to the cricket community of South Africa for allowing my personal remarks to be associated with the important pledge to the

nation in respect of the Transformation Charter that has been developed by so many people over such a long period of time."

"I would like to emphasise that neither I nor the UCB wish to confront the government or any other sporting organisation but rather believe that the problems facing us are best solved by consultation and communication."

South Africa chose the Cape coloured players Herschelle Gibbs and Paul Adams for the fourth Test but Tshwete is unhappy that more African players have not made the breakthrough.

Wastin Akram, who is involved in an inquiry into alleged corruption in Pakistani cricket, is to captain his country on their tour of India and in this summer's World Cup in England.

England in a spin, page 20

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LONDON BOAT SHOW

All information correct at time of going to press but may be subject to change.



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Old
afford

IAN SPELMAN

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THE INDEPENDENT

4 January 1999

MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

EMPORIO ARMANI
UNDERWEAR

IF PHURNACITE WAS A
PERSON, WHO WOULD IT BE?

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE FUEL
FOR BOILERS, COOKERS AND ROOMHEATERS

The ad man's new pitch

Footballers flogging Horlicks, athletes selling underwear – sport is scoring more than sex in the advertising game

In early June 1998, just before the World Cup, three major British institutions were resubfuted: the Shadow Cabinet, the Spice Girls and the England football team. It was reverse order in the media coverage, however, because the England team choice involved the Sacking of Gazza, Gazza's Drunken Binge, the Tears-of-a-Clown Gazza and the End of Gazza, which meant that the media – at every class level – gave it acres of space and miles of analysis. The previous week, *The Times* had run a television-advertised, front-page exclusive interview feature: "Danny Baker, The Gazza Interview". Danny Baker and Gazza in *The Times*. That was how far it had gone ... sports marketing.

Over the last 10 years, British sport has caught up with the notion of sports and sports stars as electronic intellectual property rights, walking sandwichboards, celebrity endorsers, guarantors of media crossover, the province of the accountant and the marketer. It is a big business. It's an American idea of course, rooted in the conjunction of national network TV, pay-per-view big football and big sports agents like Mark McCormack, the man who made Arnold Palmer a multi-millionaire way back when. And the financial core of it, for the stars, the clubs and the agents was advertiser-supported media. That was how all the money came sloshing in – the hundreds of millions of dollars from the official sponsors, and the incredibly expensive ad-breaks in the big games.

I watch at least three hours of television advertising at a stretch every week on a dedicated tape. I've written about advertising in the *Independent* on Sunday for the last four and a half years. Over that period – what we might call the Nick Hornby era – I've seen the growth of sports marketing, through the Atlanta Olympics and the European Cup into the mad crescendo of the World Cup. As I write, at least one hour of this week's new advertising tape is taken up with sports-related advertising. It's the dominant single theme.

As far as advertising is concerned, sport is the new rock 'n' roll. And, like rock 'n' roll's transformation into the music industry, sport has been hugely professionalised, organised and mainstreamed to yield points of access and commercial exploita-

tion just about everywhere, in every superstore, with every kind and condition of person.

Advertising uses sports themes and sports people to sell practically anything now – and some of the connections look extremely tenuous. So for instance Horlicks, the valetudinarian night-time drink, recently launched a new campaign, with all the usual womanly bedtime themes, that ended dramatically with the footballer Les Ferdinand taking his clothes off. Horlicks is just one of a range of advertisers with absolutely no previously visible connection with sport, fitness, men or youth that had suddenly seen a new angle: spoof sex.

Sports stars are extremely versatile – and there are so many of them to choose from, with such constant visibility. It makes sense, as they're mainly extremely famous, fit, good-looking ("uglies") get rooted out unless they are "characters" young people with practically no cultural baggage whatsoever (except the loyalties attached to their teams and countries), who seem prepared to do absolutely anything.

Young sports stars have risen without trace to form the infantry of B and C list celebrities, along with TV soap stars, weather-girls and second-rank musicians. If young women can see sports stars as sex objects, then grannies can think of conspicuously "nice" stars, like footballer Gary Lineker, as grandsons; young men can see them as their idealised peer groups; early teens can see them as parents or older siblings – and you can perm it any other which way.

But the groups that most obviously idolise sports stars – and footballers in particular – are advertising creatives and their clients. Creative folk in British advertising pride themselves on their populist grasp of culture, their feeling for the great laddish themes of music, humour and sport. They are youthful themes with huge prestige in London's Soho, hub of the advertising industry, where every creative imagines himself as a cross between Damien Hirst and James Brown (the former editor of *Loaded* magazine).

Sport has been made class-safe and aesthetically OK by the labours of a whole generation of middle-class pioneers, from Brian Glanville through to author Nick Hornby. Hornby made it all possible for short, unathletic, introverted middle-class "boys" (well into their thirties) who wanted to identify with

their football teams more than their wives, families or jobs. That top young sports folk now wear Gucci and Prada labels, rather than Top Man, certainly helped improve sport's image for a style-conscious audience.

Loaded, the magazine for superannuated lads which launched in 1993, helped too. It recruited an astonishing number of readers that no one in the magazine trade had even realised were there to a diet of glossy populism that seemed football-driven, like its launch editor James Brown. *Loaded* covered popular sports, popular people, the lifestyle and drink. It had famous "babes" taking their clothes off, rather than "relationships". It assimilated sport – and new sports people – into its own version of Cool Britannia.

By happy coincidence for advertising men, who like to feel that they are at the leading edge, sport, music and "street-style" have grown increasingly close over the last 10 years, united by the increasing dominance of black American dance music. This music, with its athleticism, its sport references, its dress code and, especially, its footwear codes, created an easy set of reference points which no advertiser or agency could ignore. If you wanted to add youth and vitality to almost any situation, sport and sports stars were the answer.

The massive growth in the sports shoe market has driven everything in sports marketing over the last decade. The real battle in the 1998 World Cup, according to the aficionados, was the fight between Nike and Adidas for the soul of the world's soccer-loving youth. A global, high-growth, high-margin fashion business like training shoes means huge advertising ratios and huge spends. Analysts reckon the main brands spent easily more than \$1bn on advertising and sponsorship last year. And that is cultural influence at scale.

They've chosen to use it; sports shoe advertising has been some of the most consistently visible work, with the clearest creative and cultural agenda you could hope to find. The sports shoe brands are selling very powerful dreams – of escape, self-realisation and peer group admiration – to children

and young people. The agenda is to identify the major brands with relevant sports heroes, street style and music, in that order, and to make every pair into a message of hope.

If sports shoe advertising has forced the pace for sports marketing, then Nike has historically driven its sector. Nike is a story in itself (and they know it: it's the story they tell in their American theme-park shops, the Nike Towns). Nike comes from Portland, Oregon, the 1960s invention of a former university track sports star. And so too does its lead advertising agency, Wieden & Kennedy. One of the world's more influential marketers has foregone Madison Avenue – even Chicago – for a small agency which has grown in a top-sided way to Amsterdam and London, both European "capitals of cool". And the Nike output – initially all those basketball stars, tall, black and reaching for the skies – sent a new version of the classic American message. From Samuel Smiles through to Anybody Can Do Anything, they would be saying "Just do it". Nike added the behavioural therapist's language and the unmistakable Nike tick (or "swoosh").

Just do what? said the critics (and during the early 1990s period of gangsta rap, ghetto muggings and murders over new training shoes, they said a whole lot more about that message). But the kids needed no translation and no excuses. With Nike you could walk as tall as you liked; with Nike the kid from the wrong side of tracks could triumph and be cheered to the echo by friends in that freeze-frame moment of triumph.

It was a message that echoed precisely what the big young-audience films of the 1980s – from *Top Gun* to *Flashdance* – had been saying.

If the sports shoe advertisers had clear objectives, a clear target market and a familiar set of messages in line with the "big picture" messages of the 1980s – and 1990s America in particular – nonetheless they developed a distinctive way of expressing them. Their agencies created advertising that looked and sounded different, and was very strongly branded in every frame, in every poster, in every magazine treatment. They created the very essence of sports hip, together with a celebration of the body.

Nike advertising is confident and distinctive because it appears to have been conceived by people who had been inside their target market's central nervous system, knew how they thought and felt,

and could relate to it. So Nike advertising dispenses with laborious explanation, obvious devices and testimonials to concentrate on catching the feelings and the moments that matter. Nike advertising is transparent to the people it is aimed at – and often utterly opaque to those outside the target market.

Nike utterly dominated its sector until the early 1990s. It took the advertising initiatives with astonishing ease because it is, in marketers' jargon, an extremely focused brand with a very strong and consistent vision and personality. Nike is one of a small number of major new companies whose main assets are their brands and the relationships they command through marketing, rather than technologies or conventional skills.

But in the early 1990s Robert Louis-Dreyfus, the entrepreneurial former chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi, moved to part-own and run Adidas, the world soccer-boot market leader, and utterly transformed the brand and its fortunes. Along the way he built a strong relationship with a much admired "creative" London advertising agency, Leagas Delaney, who in turn developed an Adidas style, different from the Nike personality, but equally distinctive. Adidas' approach, while equally optimistic, substituted ideas and eclecticism for simple affirmation, aiming to be that bit cleverer and more authentic. The old, simple Adidas shoes were revived as the "real thing" for connoisseurs tired of Nike's neon overkill in its product design. And Adidas positioned itself closer to the product and its attributes and rather less as a brand celebrating itself.

But the story is much bigger than sports shoe brands – huge and influential as they are, sports themes get absolutely everywhere. Possibly the least interesting area of sports advertising is the real thing: advertising for real dedicated sports equipment and for real live sports events spectators.

Many sports equipment markets are growing fast and big events are getting bigger, but the advertising for them is out-spent and out-shone by the unreal thing – advertising for the most undedicated goods and services you can think of and advertising for media coverage of events. The staple real equipment advertising on, say, the Eurosport cable TV channel tends to be pretty pedestrian and traditional.

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Who Says A Bank Can't Rock & Roll?

CITIBANK

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NHS under strain

Sir: This week British hospitals will be groaning with medical patients. Paradoxically, the problem is not that too many have been admitted, it is that too few have been discharged.

Admitting a patient is easy, but discharging a patient is often quite difficult. Discharge involves making the correct diagnosis after relevant investigations, assessing response to treatment, and organising social and medical follow-up.

From 5pm on 24 December until 9am on 4 January, NHS hospitals in England and Wales will have had 232 hours of medical "on call" cover, but only 24 hours of "normal" working - 9am to 5pm last Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Whilst medical "on call" cover is usually excellent for life-threatening emergencies, it does almost nothing to achieve the discharge of more routine admissions. This is because each "on call" junior doctor is not only covering his or her own patients, but also those of four other junior doctors. Routine investigations - X-ray, endoscopy, ultrasound etc - are unavailable when "on call".

On Monday 4 January, medical firms will reassemble to find their patients spread across all medical wards, as well as in surgical and gynaecological beds. There will be such a backlog of work that there will be delays for almost all investigations; social workers will have closed their casebooks etc. It may take weeks to get back to normal.

What can be done? Firstly, NHS hospitals must maintain a full service in all areas of the hospital from 8am to 8pm every day of the year. Secondly, medical firms must be based on a hospital's geographical areas, so that the "on call" doctor has a clear idea of the patients who are under his or her care.

Let's get ready for the millennium: whatever is difficult this year will be much worse in a year's time. Re-organising emergency medicine in the NHS would be an excellent way of celebrating the event.

ROY FOUNDER
(Professor of Medicine
Royal Free Hospital, London)
Richmond, Surrey

Sir: I agree wholeheartedly with Simon Ellis (letter, 29 December) that ageism is prevalent within the NHS and that access to tests and treatment should be on the grounds of demonstrable benefit and not an arbitrary age cut-off. However, his assertion that geriatrics is a "means for rationing care to the elderly" is an inversion of the truth.

In reality, frail older patients, with multiple medical problems and their need for complex discharge planning and rehabilitation, require advocacy and expertise which is provided by geriatricians. These needs have historically been neglected by single "organ specialities", which tend to promote the study of rare conditions in younger adults and neglect the commonplace needs of the old.

This medical ageism is mirrored in nursing, where staff are drawn to high-tech specialties, and in the media, where often futile, costly cases involving children are dramatised, whilst rare mentions is made of disability, degenerative disease or preventative medicine.

Geriatrics aims to respect older patients' autonomy in getting them back to their own homes and ensuring that genuine medical problems are not written off as "old age". Our received national, media and medical values do not. Dr DAVID OLIVER
Consultant physician
Sevenoaks, Kent

The future for Iraq

Sir: The correspondence in your columns following the bombing of Iraq seems to show a consensus on two points. The sale of arms to Iraq should remain illegal, but all other sanctions should cease.

And a humane way must be found to help the Iraqi people's development, without enriching their government or ceasing to monitor their "weapons of mass destruction".

Fifty years ago, in the aftermath of the Second World War, most of our European countries were in ruins, governments were facing bankruptcy and millions of people were suffering from under-nourishment and poverty.

The United States offered each country a chance to participate in a "European Recovery Program", which became known as the Marshall Plan. This laid the foundations of Western Europe's current economic prosperity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



Welsh Portraits No 1: Miners from the Tower colliery in Hirwaun, near the Brecon Beacons. While the pits all around them were closing, the miners here bought the mine for themselves and carried on as a collective
Geraint Lewis

Now we Europeans are comparatively prosperous and the Middle Eastern region is in a situation comparable to ours 50 years ago. Should not the United Kingdom therefore propose to the European Union that, together with the United States, Israel and the richer Arab states, we offer a "Middle East Recovery Programme", at least to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Iraq and Iran?

Such an offer would add to the budgetary strains the processes of enlargement and internal restructuring are imposing on the EU but, if administered by the United Nations, it might provide the world with an aim that would unite Christian and Muslim, Jew and Arab, the United States, Russia and China in a common effort. ROBIN EVANS
Worcester

A question of duty

Sir: Further to the duty-free bonanza (letter, 28 December), although bringing our duty rates into line with other EU countries would reduce duty revenue, there would be other, compensating, factors.

On the vast quantities of duty-free liquor and tobacco that are currently coming across the Channel, our government would at least be collecting some duty.

The British retailer would then have the benefit of those sales, which would increase his taxable profits.

We would not have to pay Customs and Excise officers to follow these goods around the country to make sure that they are not being resold. Here on the Isle of Wight we have

been very aware for some years now that our holiday trade is also being adversely affected by cross-Channel trafficking.

Many people have realised that they can cross the Channel more cheaply than they can cross the Solent and go home with a boot full of duty-free, which pays for the trip.

It is better to encourage people to spend their money in the UK rather than abroad. ADRIAN LEATH
Arreton, Isle of Wight

Hong Kong observer

Sir: Your entry for me in the rogues' gallery of editors who have lost their jobs in London (Media, 29 December) says I "resigned" from *The Observer* "as sales continued to slide."

I didn't resign: as I have made clear in the past, I was "replaced" - to use Hugo Young's gentlemanly term - when the Scott Trust, which he chaired, agreed to Peter Preston becoming editor-in-chief of *The Guardian* and *The Observer* and decided to appoint a new editor for the Sunday paper.

Nor did sales continue to slide. They were in serious decline when I became editor of *The Observer* in June 1993 and were forecast to slump to 450,000 by Christmas.

By the first six months of 1994, we had pushed them back above half a million, and hit 520,000 in October-November just before the Scott Trust axe fell on me. JONATHAN FENBY
Editor
South China Morning Post
Hong Kong

IN BRIEF

Sir: Alan MacColl wrote (letter, 30 December) asking, "In what sense can anyone in the last 1,000 years have been 'British' before the [Anglo-Scottish] Union of 1707?" There is an accurate historical answer: Y Brythoniaid - the original Celtic British who gave their name to our island at least 2,000 years ago, a name used by Julius Caesar and used universally ever since to describe the whole place.

I write as a descendant of these original British from the small patch vouchsafed to us, oddly and inaccurately called "Wales" -

derived from the Teutonic term for "foreigner". Tut, tut. ST CHARLES CBE
Tenby, Pembrokeshire

Sir: Having read the letters from David Bate and John Anderson (2 January), I wonder if the time has arrived to discontinue or reform the system of honours. One example: OBE or Officer of the Order of the British Empire - there is no British Empire.

If for one would abolish all these honours and introduce one simple honour called "Service to the Community". This would be open to

everybody regardless of class or profession. I believe the majority of people would look at the recipients with pride and admiration instead of contempt. DAVID WILDING
Bridge, Kent

Sir: It is sad that Susan Watkin (letter, 1 January) joins the sport of knocking the railway companies' timetable inquiries, unfairly. I used the service twice over Christmas and it was prompt and efficient. It is wrong to blame it if it is disrupted by extreme weather in Scotland, where

the service is located. The weather was so bad it left thousands of people without electricity for days. HARRY STOFES-ROE
Birmingham

Sir: We have now experienced the finest festive entertainment our five TV channels could muster. Is there anybody out there who would have begrudged an hour devoted to traditional Christmas celebration? Certainly not in our non-religious household. JANET VAUGHAN-JONES
Shrewsbury

I'm no tween

Sir: I am writing to say that the article on children becoming teenagers at the age of 10 (report, 31 December) is completely out of order. I am a 12-year-old girl and I don't like to be talked about as someone who follows the crowd and is not capable of thinking for herself.

To me it doesn't seem that you have done nearly enough research about the lives of typical 10-, 11- and 12-year-olds. For example, in my opinion no one of my age would ever even think about Richard Branson. Also, Leonardo DiCaprio is good looking but I wouldn't make a fuss about him just because some of my friends do.

I follow fashion but I wouldn't wear anything I didn't like myself. I wear fashionable clothes only if and when I like them. So it doesn't sound as if I'm under peer pressure, does it?

I like *EastEnders* and so do many of my friends, but it doesn't mean that I sit down every Sunday lunchtime with a tray on my knee to watch it. In fact, I always sit down to eat my meal with my family, unless I am going out.

So what if I have access to a computer? It does not mean I am using it the whole time, because my mum works on it and, in any case, I have other things to do.

I also do not like the way you categorise 10-, 11-, and 12-year-olds as something called "twens". We do not want to be known as something other than our names, because we are all individual people. You seem to be saying that we should be seen as a separate group, different from everyone else.

Perhaps next time you wish to write about my age group, you could consult us first to get your facts straight. LUCY BAINBRIDGE
Epsom, Surrey

Something in the water

Sir: In calling for a change in the law ("Suppliers call for fluoride in water", 24 December), Water UK will be virtually guaranteeing nation-wide fluoridation as health authorities have decided in favour of fluoridation when their consultation processes have shown overwhelming public opposition to it.

Since it is not Water UK's place to make water consumers ill, perhaps their chief executive will tell us how the water companies will cater for the needs of those of us whose health is adversely affected by fluoride and who, therefore, have to avoid fluoridated water and foods manufactured with it (as well, of course, as avoiding items naturally high in fluoride such as tea, fish and fluoride toothpastes).

After all, we too pay for a potable water supply, safe to drink and bathe in. I have not yet had a satisfactory reply from Health Minister Tessa Jowell to this question.

In their seeming rush to inflict compulsory fluoride on the nation via fluoridation, why have not the Government and Water UK taken any notice of the *British Dental Journal's* paper on the hazards of fluoride ingestion - in that instance from fluoride toothpaste - calling for a "risk-benefit strategy" which "minimises the amount of fluoride ingested and maximises the concentration of fluoride delivered to the oral environment"?

If all water is fluoridated and we can only rinse and spit but not swallow, what is everyone supposed to drink? Beware. Water UK and Tessa Jowell, the specious arguments of the fluoridationists. Dr JENNY DUCKWORTH
Pitling, South Gloucestershire

Till the pips squeak

Sir: The idea of allowing employees to choose their own dates for their public holidays (letter, 2 January) does not mean that they will be able to take them when they want them. More and more employees are finding it increasingly difficult to take their normal leave when they would most like to do so, and are also liable to be penalised if they wish to "carry over" any unused days.

I work for one of the largest employers in the UK and we have had some of our traditional holidays turned into what are now called "privilege days" and added to our annual leave. Most of us assume the name was arrived at because we are privileged if we can take the days off applied for. I seem to remember that the computer age was going to see an increase in people's leisure time but it seems that today's employers see it as a tool to squeeze every last second of every last day from people. MARK BENTLEY
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

A good year for Slobodan, but Tony takes the biscuit

AT THE start of every year it is customary to bring you the most popular boy's and girl's names of the previous years. This is usually done by looking at the names of boys and girls in the "Births" columns, but as regular readers of this column will know, I prefer to consult the headlines to see which the really popular names are.

So whereas you may get the impression from other papers that the popular names are John and James, or Sophie and Lucy, a quick look at the papers will show you that such names are, in fact, extremely rare - among important people, at least. Indeed, some names that occur in headlines never occur in daily life at all - names like Sting and Madonna, and Scary and Boy. (These last are the first names of Ms Spice and Mr George respectively.)

One of the odd things about first names as found in the headlines is the speed with which they go in and out of fashion. One year the most common first name was Mr. It has never reoccurred. This was entirely due to the popularity of that year of TV dramatisations of Jane Austen's novels, and all her heroes had the first name Mr (Mr Darcy etc). Last year the outright winner of boy's names was Dodi. This year it does not even figure in the top 100.

Another curiosity is the way in which politicians and leaders are rarely known by their first name. John Major was never called John by headline writers. Clinton is always Clinton, rarely Bill. That is why the name Bill does not figure in our top ten boy's names, even though the most important man in

the world bears it. Even at the level of football management this is true. Glenn Hoddle would be recognisable if called Glenn, as there are very few Glens in football, but he is always called Hoddle in print, never Glenn.

However, let us get straight to the main agenda of today's ceremony, and that is the grand announcement of the top 10 boy's names of 1998. Roll of drums. Fanfare. Thank you.

(Previous year's position in brackets, incidentally)

- | | |
|-------------|------|
| 1. Tony | (11) |
| 2. Charles | (5) |
| 3. Leonardo | (-) |
| 4. Saddam | (-) |
| 5. Zinedine | (-) |
| 6. Slobodan | (-) |
| 7. Peter | (9) |
| 8. Oskar | (7) |



MILES KINGDON

Last year the outright winner was Dodi. This year it does not even figure in the top 100

9. Ken (6)
10. Helmut (-)
Tony's popularity is entirely due to

Mr Blair's sudden rise to spring-heeled prominence. There are other Tonys around, such as Tony Banks, but they rarely feature.

Indeed, it would seem from a study of political first names that it is no help to ambition to have the same first name as a rival, or as your leader. Nobody called Margaret threw near Mrs Thatcher. John Redwood dwindled before John Major. And the only Edward near Edward Heath was Edward du Cann, and look what happened to him. No, we fear that Tony Banks's ambitions will have to be put on hold.

Leonardo has never featured in the list before, so well done, Mr di Caprio. Obviously the name Leonardo is a bit too Italian for the American audience, so already Mr di Caprio's first name is being

shortened by the publicists to Lenny or even Leo, and we may never see Leonardo on the top 10 list again.

Most Americans, of course, think that di Caprio was named after a mutant turtle called Leonardo, as they have never heard of the artist Leonardo da Vinci.

(Incidentally, in the credits of an old Sergeant Bilko film the other day I spotted that the name of the director was a certain Al di Caprio. Any relation, I wonder?)

Zinedine is an even more unusual name than Slobodan, and would not figure here were it not for Mr Zidane's goal-scoring feats for France against Brazil in the World Cup final, in which he became the first person in history to become famous despite having both names beginning with Z.

Other names which flared into brief popularity were Salman and Yasser; Benjamin and Gerhard; Arsene and Menzies; and - very briefly - Enoch, after the publication of a life of the late Enoch Powell. Fergie was quite popular, as indeed was Fergie, which interestingly is a boy's name when used of football managers and a girl's name when used of duchesses. Ron was fleetingly fashionable for a week when a Welshman strayed on Clapham Common and George became fashionable when a pop star strayed in a Californian lavatory.

Tomorrow we come to the top 10 girl's names of 1998, the first year for many years in which Diana has not won outright. Or can she do it again posthumously? All will be revealed tomorrow!

DAY REVIEW
4 January 1999

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The social costs and personal benefits of working on holidays

WE CAN all sympathise with Church pronouncements that we work too hard. Yesterday Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume, and the new Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, James Jones, lamented the number of people working over Christmas. They argued that quality of family and communal life should not be sacrificed to make way for the long hours Britons increasingly devote to the workplace.

They are right to be concerned. We have all been long promised that automation would bring shorter working hours and less stressful working environments. In practice, this has not worked out. Hours of work have risen: overtime and weekend working are more prevalent than ever before. Britons work harder than any other Europeans.

Cardinal Hume and Bishop Jones are right that there is more to life than work. Social needs have also to be satisfied, and there are all too many signs that this is not so. The number of divorces, the prevalence of single parenthood, and general sense of civic malaise that they divine is no illusion.

It is not really enough to argue that the world economy demands that we work harder and harder: we have to work harder for something, strive towards some goal, or work can become meaningless.

The problem with the bishops' argument is these issues are separate ones: they cannot always be run together, and given one cause labelled "too much work". Each separate problem they outline has its own causes, and possible solutions.

There are many reasons why families break up. There is no single truth as to why families disintegrate. It is a debate which will engage sociologists and anthropologists well into the next millennium. All we can argue with certainty is that such vast changes are not simply due to people working harder.

The exploitation of workers is a more specific issue, demanding different solutions. Primarily, this means legislation. There are, rightly, laws - many of them campaigned for by the churches - to prevent people being worked to exhaustion. They have recently been strengthened by the adoption of the 48-hour working week. No one should have to work longer than they feel they can, a point the bishops do well to reinforce.

They have a point, too, when it comes to public holidays. We will lose something, some sense of shared time, place and identity, if our national holidays lose their meaning. These holidays should remain special. Those who wish to work should still be able to. But the right to those holidays should be retained.

All the same, little good will come from attempting to impose a sense of national identity. There is no British



equivalent of Bastille Day in France, or Independence Day in the US. No such shared experience will be effective unless people believe in it. A multicultural society, increasingly exposed to world media and global culture, inevitably reinforces this process. This does not mean that time off is irrelevant, but simply that it is harder to get everyone to agree on the time when we should share that moment.

From the rhetoric of church and business leaders, one would think that social and economic needs were incompatible. This need not be so. Working longer hours is not necessarily an indication of avarice: it usually springs from the oldest and most laudable moral urge: to protect and nurture one's family.

Nor is offering employment over holidays wrong: it gives opportunities to those who desire more flexibility in when they go to work. The challenge is to find the right balance between those moral aims, and the right to a personal life, which can sustain civic duty.

A bigger truncheon for the world's policeman

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S declared intent to pump more money into the American military is more significant than suggested by the political comment it has attracted. Mr Clinton is indeed a master of "triangulation", the art of political horse trading and stealing opponents' political clothes. With the Senate about to begin considering his alleged "high crimes and misdemeanours", more military spending constitutes a gesture to the Republican Party in Congress that it can still do business with him.

But Mr Clinton's announcement is more important for what it tells us about the US. It ensures that American personnel will be stationed around the globe, enforcing the *par Americana*, long after this president's sexual infidelities are consigned to the history books.

The money being offered is on a grand scale: it might amount to \$100bn (£61bn) over a decade. This means that the 250,000 American service personnel currently stationed outside the US itself will not have to be withdrawn. But it also allows the US military to maintain its "stealth" capabilities, with which it can bombard most nations without taking casualties in return.

Such self-confident assertion is impressive, especially for a nation already spending more per capita than Europeans on defence. A nation has not been so dominant since the last days of the *par Britannica* preceding the First World War. But no credible threat is on the American horizon. The Japanese economic danger that panicked Americans in the 1980s has dissipated; Russia is in chaos; China seems more interested in domestic economic reform.

Mr Clinton's local difficulties should not blind us to the reality that he still leads the only nation in the world with power to shape our destinies. One thing is certain for the coming century: American power will be pre-eminent.

If Blair were to dare it, he could win a euro referendum this year

THIS YEAR, New Labour, the most formidable of electoral machines, faces several tests at the hands of the voters. For the first time since Tony Blair became leader its prospects look rather bleak. This has little to do with its current standing which continues to break all records, nor with signs of a Tory recovery of which there are few. Nonetheless every time voters head for a ballot box in 1999, and some of them will be voting often, it is the Tories who are likely to receive a boost and Labour left licking its wounds.

Most of these journeys to polling stations will testify to the pluralism of the supposed control freaks in Downing Street. The Tories will be brought to life again in Scotland in a parliament which will be elected under a form of proportional representation. No longer will it be possible to portray the Tories as a dead parrot north of the border. Courtesy of a Labour government the deceased bird will be partially exhumed.

The European elections, contested also under a form of electoral reform which Hague fiercely opposed, will produce gains for the Tories and possibly heavy losses for Labour. Indeed leading "first past the post"ers in the Government are citing already the Euro elections as their moment of vindication. "Enough of these masochistic changes to the voting system," they will declare, rubbing their hands with giddy glee as the seats tumble. The Euro elections were last contested in 1994, when the Tories were in disarray and before Blair started to cast his spell. Indeed, the last time they were held, Margaret Beckett, a great first

past the post, was leader of the party. In this May's local elections, the Tories can only move upwards. One of the few benefits for them of having been virtually annihilated in 1994, is that subsequent gains can be portrayed in a triumphant light.

So, by mid summer Hague will have a slightly more stable perch on which to cling. The Tories will look a little healthier and Labour less robust after the succession of mid term electoral tests.

Admittedly it would be bizarre if such a prospect did not await a government coming up to the half-way point in the electoral cycle. At this equivalent stage, after the 1979 election, Labour under the recently elected Michael Foot was miles ahead of the Tory government in the polls. Even so a governing party worries about losing popularity, especially when it has enjoyed consistent poll leads and when a rapport with voters is part of its *raison d'être*.

There is, though, one poll which could be held this year or next with the potential to propel the Government into even more stratospheric levels of popularity. Consider the political rewards for the government of a referendum on a single currency. Just as William Hague was declaring that the Tories were on their way again, with evidence from the mid summer elections clutched triumphantly to his bosom, their precarious unity would be blown apart.

The perception of Britain being on the sidelines plus a dazzling coalition in support of entry would defeat with relative ease a parochial campaign led



STEVE RICHARDS
Every time voters head for a ballot box in 1999, it is the Tories who are likely to receive a boost

by the all-dancing Sun. On the one side Hague, John Redwood, Bill Cash; on the other Blair, his entire cabinet, most Labour MPs, Ashdown and most of his party, Clarke, Heseltine, Howe, prominent trade unionists such as John Monks (whose New Year message bemoaned our absence from the currency), Adair Turner from the CBI and many other prominent businessmen. Compared with a referendum on electoral reform, which looks increasingly remote in the post-Mandelson landscape, such a campaign would be a piece of cake.

As a bonus, these strategic calculations would be based on the correct conclusion: the longer Britain is on the sidelines the more it risks a re-run of the ERM saga, entering at the wrong time economically but when, for whatever circumstances, signing up be-

comes politically possible. ERM entry occurred when John Major, as chancellor, finally persuaded Margaret Thatcher that the time was right. Britain entered at the wrong time, at the wrong level and for the wrong reasons. With EMU, Britain will join after the election is safely out of the way and when it appears as close as certain that a referendum is winnable, irrespective of the economic case for joining earlier.

Of course in many quarters an EMU referendum is not viewed in such a glowing light. A potentially suicidal risk is the more common perception in the upper echelons of the Government. Polls are ambiguous. The focus groups are still sceptical. The press has not been squared. Rightly they recognise that defeat for the Government would be fatal and Britain's chances of joining EMU would be set back for a decade at least.

But a referendum is always a risk. I doubt if anyone would be able to predict the outcome of an EMU poll in the honeymoon of a second term with any certainty. The case for a referendum before the election is as strong as the arguments deployed in favour of delay.

Yet, apparently the option has been ruled out. When Gordon Brown made his "historic" statement in the Commons in November 1997, stating that entry was not economically viable this side of the election, it was presented as an important step towards EMU. (Spin doctors suggested to the Sun that an appropriate headline would be "Brown Saves The Pound", reflecting the strategic ambiguity as far as the euro is concerned). In reality Brown

said nothing especially new. The declaration that Labour saw no constitutional objection to entry, Brown's main theme, was made by Tony Blair in a Commons debate in March 1995, long before the last election.

The origins of that November statement is still shrouded in some mystery. But one of those who argued that a door to entry should be kept open before the next election was Peter Mandelson. The Treasury has always insisted that those of us who interpreted Brown's statement as still leaving a slight room for manoeuvre were wrong. The door was firmly shut this side of the election, insist Treasury insiders. Even so, there is a get out clause, or rather an "opt in" one, as Brown stated that "unforeseen economic circumstances" could necessitate a change of plan.

If the process looked as if it would galvanise the Blair project by modernising Britain's place in the EU, underlining the benefits of closer co-operation with Ashdown's Liberal Democrats and splitting the Tories, could it happen before the election? If Mandelson saw the gap and persuaded Blair to go for it, he would have had more influence as a backbencher than anything accomplished at the DTI.

It probably won't happen. This is not a risk taking government. But as the benefits become more evident, Blair may begin to regard the single currency as an unexpected ace amidst mid-term electoral misfortunes.

Steve Richards is political editor of the *New Statesman*

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"One thing I don't believe in is a fine. It would just mean an added tax on Barbra Streisand, Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg."
Senator John McCain, on punishing Bill Clinton

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Old age is not so bad when you consider the alternatives."
Maurice Chevalier, French entertainer

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Professor Sir Alan Hodgkin

ALAN HODGKIN was one of the leading experimental biologists of the middle years of this century. He achieved an almost complete understanding of excitation and conduction in nerve fibres at the level possible with the techniques available at that time. This paved the way for subsequent unravelling of the molecular mechanisms, which followed from improvements in electronic techniques, and the growth of molecular genetics.

He also made major contributions to other aspects of the physiology of nerves and muscles, and especially to the mechanism of vision. During the Second World War, he was a member of the team that developed short-wave airborne radar, a development that was crucial to many of the successes of the RAF. His career was completed by holding the two most distinguished positions open to an academic scientist in Britain, the Presidency of the Royal Society (1970-75) and the Mastership of Trinity College, Cambridge (1978-84).

It was his war work that led him to write his autobiography, *Chance and Design: reminiscences of science in peace and war* (1982). The development of airborne radar had not been covered in any of the histories of the war and Hodgkin felt that he had a duty to the memory of his colleagues, several of whom had died in accidents during test flights, to record their achievement. When this was complete, he added a very full account of his boyhood, his time at Cambridge before the war, and his post-war scientific work, with an outline of his activities as President of the Royal Society and Master of Trinity.

The result is a delight to read, enlivened by frequent quotations from his letters to his mother and his wife's to her parents in the United States. Inevitably, parts are too technical for some readers but the book is laid out so that these can easily be skipped.

Alan Hodgkin was born into a strictly Quaker family shortly before the outbreak of the First World War. His father, George, was resolute that his principles did not allow him to undertake any work that would help the war effort, an attitude that generated a degree of hostility that is difficult to believe for those of us who lived through the second war when the attitude of genuine conscientious objectors was readily accepted. George Hodgkin took part in relief work in Armenia, and on his way to that country for a second visit in 1918 he died of dysentery in Baghdad.

Alan's mother made a second marriage in 1932, to Lionel Smith, Rector of the Edinburgh Academy and son of the redoubtable A.L. Smith, Master of Balliol. Alan's main boyhood interest was natural history, which he was able to pursue during his many visits to Quaker relatives in various parts of the country and at his two schools, the Downs near Malvern and Gresham's at Holt in Norfolk; he was not a mere bird-spotter but made several serious studies of bird behaviour.

Hodgkin won an open scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, and went up in the autumn of 1932 to read for the Natural Science Tripos. His original intention was to specialise in zoology with the idea of a career in applied biology, probably overseas, but on the advice of his Director of Studies, Carl Pantin (later Professor of Zoology at Cambridge), he took Physiology together with Zoology and Chemistry in Part I; he became more interested in Physiology and chose it for his Part II. It was also on Pantin's advice that he taught himself much mathematics outside his university courses.

In Trinity, Hodgkin stepped into a tradition of interest in the mechanism of nerve action. This had been started by a friend of his father, Keith Lucas (killed in a flying accident in 1916), a Fellow of Trinity who established that each nerve impulse is an "all-or-none" event, i.e. the size of the event that travels along a fibre is the same whatever the nature or the strength of the stimulus that set it off. Lucas's pupil E.D. (later Lord) Adrian, also a Fellow and later Master of Trinity, carried this line of work further, recording the sequences of impulses set up by sense organs or sent from the brain or spinal cord to muscles, and inspired Hodgkin by his lectures; another link in the chain was William Rushton, a member of the teaching staff of Trinity.

Hodgkin completed an important piece of research on nerve during his first postgraduate year and was immediately elected to a junior Research Fellowship at Trinity, an unusual distinction. In this work, he gave the first experimental evidence for the "local circuit theory" according to which the electrical event at each point along the nerve fibre causes current to flow and to activate the next point along the fibre. The experiment had actually been planned with a different objective, so the outcome was an example of the "chance" that forms part of the title of his autobiography.

His next piece of research was another example of "chance". He was recording from bundles of fibres from a nerve of a crab, and one bundle gave an exceptionally large re-



Hodgkin was joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine, with Sir John Eccles and Sir Andrew Huxley, in 1963

Hulton Getty

sponse which obeyed the "all-or-none law": evidently it consisted of a single fibre of unusually large size. This preparation enabled Hodgkin to detect an active "local response" even when the stimulus was not strong enough to set up an all-or-none propagated impulse.

In 1937, Hodgkin went to the US to spend a year at the Rockefeller Institute in New York. He records that he found much resistance both to the local circuit theory and to the idea of a local response; the latter was regarded as a breach of the all-or-none "law". Hodgkin met K.S. (Kacy) Cole, who was using as experimental material the recently discovered giant nerve fibre of the squid. This fibre, about 0.5mm in diameter, is large enough to make many experiments practicable that would be impossible in other fibres. In an exceptionally elegant experiment, Cole had demonstrated a large fall in the electrical resistance of the surface membrane of the fibre during the passage of an impulse. Hodgkin collaborated with Cole in another experiment; this was his introduction to the squid giant fibre which was the material he used in the most important of his later experiments.

One of the famous members of the Rockefeller Institute was Peyton Rous, who later received a Nobel Prize for his discovery of a cancer (in chickens) caused by a virus. Through him Hodgkin met his daughter Marion (Marni), whom he later married, but their acquaintance was interrupted by the outbreak of war. In 1944 Hodgkin returned to the US for a few weeks in connection with his war work; he renewed his acquaintance with Marni, they married and succeeded, with some difficulty, in getting permission for her to come to Britain.

On his return to Cambridge, Hodgkin was appointed to teaching posts in the university and in Trinity. During 1938-39, he built a new set of electronic equipment based on expertise that he had learnt at the Rockefeller, and together with Rushton he showed that applied currents too small to excite a nerve fibre caused electric changes similar to those in a non-living cable.

I went up to Trinity as an undergraduate in 1935; Hodgkin and I both lived in college and we met occasionally in friends' rooms. In 1938-39 I did Part II Physiology and received some teaching from him. He invited me to join him at the laboratory of the Marine Biological Association at Plymouth during the summer of 1939 to do some experiments on the squid fibre. Our first experiment was abortive, but another example of "chance" - Hodgkin saw that we had the fibre in a position where we could push a fine saline-filled glass tube down inside the fibre to act as an electrode with which we could measure directly the potential difference between the interior and the exterior of the fibre. At rest, the interior was

about 50 millivolts negative relative to the external solution, but on stimulation the internal potential rose by about 100mV, so that there was an "overshoot" of about 50mV beyond the resting potential, a result that would be impossible on the then current theory.

By the time that we had checked this result, war was imminent, so we packed up and left Plymouth; two days later Hitler's armies marched into Poland. We published our result in a short letter to *Nature*, with no explanation for the overshoot. We met a few times during the war and published a full-length paper in 1945, containing no less than four possible explanations for the overshoot, all of which proved to be wrong. It was also in 1945 that Hodgkin and I began discussing the idea that turned out to be correct.

DURING THE first six months of the 1939-45 war, Hodgkin worked at the Royal Aircraft Establishment on the physiological problems of high-altitude flying in unpressurised aircraft. He was involved in the design of an "economiser" that avoided the waste of oxygen, and in the investigation of "bends", the painful consequence of nitrogen bubbles coming out of solution in the blood, which Hodgkin experienced himself

ing of open cities, which was the principal aim of Churchill and his adviser Lord Cherwell; persuasion from Patrick Blackett and others succeeded in getting a few of the radars designed for locating ground targets diverted to antisubmarine purposes, where they had a decisive effect in reducing our shipping losses.

Hodgkin returned to Cambridge and research on nerve in the autumn of 1945 and I joined him at the beginning of 1946. Our first question was the origin of the overshoot. The action potential was thought to be caused by a sudden increase of permeability of the membrane to all kinds of ions, making a short-circuit so that the internal potential would rise towards that of the external solution but no further. The increase of permeability had been confirmed by Cole's experiment, but the overshoot remained a puzzle.

With hindsight, Hodgkin and I later felt that we had been stupid not to have seen at once that it would be expected if the increase of permeability was specific for sodium ions: these would diffuse inwards because they are much more concentrated outside than inside the fibre and would carry their positive charge inwards. This was shown to be the correct explanation by

clamp. Cole had the same idea and was the first to have such an equipment running, in 1947, but he made only limited use of it, showing only that current through the membrane did indeed vary continuously with potential, with a region in which the relationship would be unstable if the feedback would be unstable if the feedback were not operating.

Hodgkin visited the US again in the spring of 1948. He learnt from Cole about this experiment and in turn told Cole of the experiments with Katz on the effects of low sodium concentration. Hodgkin's voltage clamp equipment was ready for the Plymouth season of 1948. He and Katz started work with it and I joined them later, obtaining results generally similar to Cole's.

We improved the apparatus before the 1949 season, when Hodgkin and I did our final series of experiments, in which we recorded the effect of altering the external sodium concentration. We separated the components of current carried by sodium and by potassium ions, and we fitted their time courses with equations that seemed plausible if the currents were carried by the ions diffusing through "gates" in the membrane which were opened or closed by changes of membrane potential. We obtained a satisfactory fit to our observations on the basis of these

bridge. A major technical advance was the further development of a method of recording the internal potential of a cell by pushing the very fine (0.001mm) tip of a saline-filled glass tube through the surface membrane, so that it could be used for recording short-lived action potentials as well as the steady resting potential. This method of recording immediately became a standard technique.

WHEN WE had completed the work on the squid fibre that we published in 1952, we could not see what could be done next to take the understanding of the excitation process to a deeper level. Huge advances have been made since, but all have depended on technical improvements or on advances in other branches of biology - notably molecular genetics - that were unforeseeable in 1952. Hodgkin therefore switched to other aspects of nerve physiology.

The final phase of Hodgkin's scientific work, from 1970 onwards, was on the mechanism by which the rods and cones of the vertebrate retina respond to light. In this work he had several collaborators, most notably Denis Baylor from Stanford University. They played a major part in elucidating the unbelievably complex process, involving many steps of biochemical amplification and complicated interactions with calcium ions, by which the absorption of a single photon by one of the billion or so photosensitive molecules in a single rod or cone cell suppresses the entry of several million sodium ions.

As President of the Royal Society, Hodgkin re-established scientific contacts with Japan and with China. There had been no formal contact with Japan since the war, and Hodgkin was a member of the first formal delegation to that country. The outcome was the establishment of an exchange agreement, on the lines of those already existing with many other countries. His visit to China did re-establish occasional contacts but no more: the Cultural Revolution was still in progress and made anything but the most directly applied science impossible.

An event which was painful to Hodgkin in more ways than one was the publication in 1971 of Lord (Victor) Rothschild's report proposing the "customer-contractor principle", according to which much of the work of each Research Council should be decided by the related government department acting as customer and paying for the work with funds transferred from the Research Council. Hodgkin, together with most working scientists, disagreed strongly with this idea, which was likely to stifle initiative in basic research, and a unanimous report of the Royal Society Council opposed the extensive use of the principle. This did not dissuade the Government from adopting it, although

some of the proposed transfers of funds were reduced. The personal aspect of this disagreement was that it overshadowed the long-standing and deep friendship between Rothschild and his wife and the Hodgkins.

The Mastership is a less demanding post in Trinity than in most colleges, because the Master is appointed by the Crown and the Fellows, remembering a tyrannical Master in the 18th century, give him less power and fewer duties than in colleges where the head is elected by the Fellows. The Master's Lodge gave him and Marni scope for their talent as hosts, both to junior members of the college and to many senior persons. They restored the custom of inviting the visiting High Court judge to occupy part of the lodge during his occasional tour of duty in Cambridge.

Under Hodgkin's guidance, the courts known as Whewell's Courts were renovated and much of the Fellows' Garden was replanned. The decision to admit women undergraduates to Trinity had already been taken; it was a change of which Hodgkin wholeheartedly approved, and the admission of the first batch coincided with his becoming Master.

Hodgkin had been freed from teaching duties in 1952 when he was appointed Foulerton Research Professor of the Royal Society. In 1969 he was elected John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Biophysics in Cambridge University. He remained active in his research on vision throughout his time as President of the Royal Society and Master of Trinity. His laboratory work was curtailed after his retirement as Master by a sequence of illnesses, though he continued with the help of his colleague Brian Nunn until the latter's premature death in 1987. His medical problems culminated in an operation in 1989 to relieve pressure on the spinal cord from one of the intervertebral discs in his neck, which left him unable to walk without support and with progressive disablement.

Hodgkin received many honours, most notably membership of the Order of Merit (1973), which was preceded by a knighthood (1972). At the Royal Society, he was elected a Fellow in 1948 at the unusually young age of 34 and received a Royal Medal in 1958 and the Copley Medal in 1965. He was awarded the Baly Medal of the Royal College of Physicians (1955). He was Chancellor of Leicester University (1971-84) and President of the Marine Biological Association (1966-76). He was a member of many foreign academies and received honorary degrees from many universities in Britain and overseas.

Hodgkin had a remarkable ability to recognise important problems in his area of interest and to see a way of tackling them. As a result, he was usually ahead of the field and could afford to carry on at his own pace without worrying about being overtaken by other laboratories. Apart from three or four early pieces of research carried out alone, he did his experimental work with one, two or sometimes three collaborators. From shortly after the war, he had the help of a highly skilled instrument maker, R.H. Cook.

Hodgkin had no wish to build up a large group as is often done nowadays. As well as his own collaborators, he usually had one or two visitors doing their own research and publishing independently; he was free with advice and help to them, as he was to me when I was not actually in collaboration with him. He was always ready to discuss current unpublished work with others. I have tried to model my style in science on his, and I regard myself as fortunate to have served my scientific apprenticeship with him.

He remained a very modest man, despite his achievements and his distinction. He had many interests outside science, notably literature, art and travel. His wife Marni shared these with him, except for fishing, which he mentioned among his "recreations" in *Who's Who*. She was for many years in charge of the children's book section of *Macmillan*. Their marriage was ideally successful, and it is tragic that their last years together were overshadowed by his disabilities, throughout which she cared for him devotedly. She survives him, together with the three daughters and one son of the marriage; the son has followed his father into biological research, and his election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1990 gave great pleasure to his father.

ANDREW HUXLEY

Alan Lloyd Hodgkin, biologist; born Banbury, Oxfordshire 5 February 1914; Fellow, Trinity College, Cambridge 1936-78, 1984-98, Master 1978-84; FRS 1948; Foulerton Research Professor, Royal Society 1952-69; President, 1970-75; Nobel Prize for Medicine (jointly, with Sir John Eccles and Sir Andrew Huxley), 1963; President, Marine Biological Association 1966-76; John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Biophysics, Cambridge University 1970-81; Chancellor, Leicester University 1971-84; KBE 1972; OM 1973; married 1944 Marion Rous (one son, three daughters); died Cambridge 20 December 1998.

Hodgkin had a remarkable ability to recognise important problems in his area of interest and to see a way of tackling them. As a result, he was usually ahead of the field and could afford to carry on at his own pace without worrying about being overtaken by other laboratories

as an experimental subject in a decompression chamber.

From February 1940, he was working on airborne radar, initially at a number of places but finally in Malvern College. He was already skilled in electronics but learnt much more that was valuable in his post-war research. Airborne radar was already in service for detecting ships, its wavelength was 1.5 metres, too long to achieve precise direction-finding with aerials small enough to be carried on an aircraft.

In 1940, the cavity magnetron was invented, making high powers available at wavelengths of a few centimetres. Most of Hodgkin's work for the rest of the war was the development of airborne equipment working at 9cm and later 3cm, including much flying to test the equipment. Initially, he was on equipment for night fighters but was transferred to work for bombers, first for target location and later on gun control.

Like most of the scientists engaged on these projects, Hodgkin was strongly opposed to the bomb-

Hodgkin, together with Bernard Katz, in the summer of 1947.

The experiments before the war in which Hodgkin had seen local responses had led him to believe that the increase of permeability of the membrane was graded with the amount of the change of internal potential. As the internal potential was raised the permeability increase would allow entry of sodium ions whose positive charge would raise the internal potential still further, so that the situation would be unstable and the internal potential would rise explosively, causing the all-or-none character of the action potential.

The instability also makes it difficult for an experimenter to control the situation so as to investigate the causation of the permeability change. Hodgkin realised that the instability would be avoided if a wire were pushed down inside a giant nerve fibre and used to draw off the current carried inwards by sodium ions. This could be achieved with feedback amplifier, an arrangement that came to be known as voltage

"Hodgkin-Huxley equations" and calculated from them the time course and the velocity of an action potential to be expected; these agreed satisfactorily with those recorded experimentally.

These results were published in five papers in 1952, and led to the award to us, jointly with Sir John Eccles, of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1963. To my surprise, these "Hodgkin-Huxley equations" have survived with relatively little modification, though at the time I thought that they were very provisional and would soon be superseded.

Shortly after the war, Hodgkin had started experiments with radioactive tracers to follow movements of ions in nerve fibres. These experiments were mostly done in collaboration with Richard Keynes and were continued by him, establishing many features of the movements of ions into and out of nerve fibres.

In the intervals between the summer seasons at Plymouth, Hodgkin did other important work at Cam-

Anatoli Rybakov

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...ANDREW HUMP

ONE OF the most compelling aspects of the last years of the Soviet Union was the erosion of authority and credibility of the Communist Party, a process initiated and fostered by the party itself. Some 18 months after Gorbachev's accession to the leadership, his ideological adviser, Alexander Yakovlev, was given the Politburo's assent to switch off the red light in intellectual and cultural life, and to leave it on amber, rather than green. Henceforth, it should be writers and their editors who would, for the most part, decide what to publish.

The first rays of light were fatefully cast on the history of the party itself. Mikhail Shatrov published plays about the revolution, in which Krensky, Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin appeared as dramatic personae, arguing and debating the events and the actions for which they were held responsible, and were given words to speak that in no way echoed the accepted orthodoxy. But the literary event that opened the flood gates must be credited to Anatoli Rybakov.

Some 20 years earlier, in 1966, he had completed *Children of the Arbat*, a novel in which Stalin himself is one of the main fictionalised characters. The book had been intended as a reinforcement of the de-stalinisation process, begun by Khrushchev in 1956, but it had been an early victim of the move towards the policy pursued by Brezhnev, which was to leave things unsaid, rather than grasp uncomfortable nettles.

As late as September 1966, Rybakov did not know if permission would be given for his book to appear. By the spring of 1967, however, the new policy was coming into place, and *Children of the Arbat* fitted the bill perfectly: a partly autobiographical, partly fictional account of the early 1930s, its hero, the author himself, is arrested in order to serve as a link in a huge plot contrived by Stalin and his henchmen, which would culminate in the show trials, purges and mass terror to come. The book received a tumultuously enthusiastic response from the Soviet intelligentsia, and the historians began holding round-table discussions in which the general view was expressed that "we cannot leave the writing of our history to the novelists".

And following Rybakov, indeed,

from early 1988 a steady widening of the entrance to taboo topics took place. More truthful commentary was now made on such figures as Bukharin, Zinoviev, Kamenev, and others, who were officially rehabilitated, and on Trotsky, whose ideas were now revealed in at least a neutral light, and finally on Lenin who was at last acknowledged as the architect not of a "radiant future", but of all the miseries endured by the Soviet people since the revolution.

Anatoli Naumovich Rybakov was born in 1911 in Chernigov, in present-day Ukraine. His father, Ngum Aronov, was an engineer of Jewish origin. In 1919 the family moved to Moscow where on completing his secondary education Anatoli worked for two years in factory labour as a stvedore and driver. He entered the Moscow Transport Institute in 1929.

In his final year he was arrested on a trumped-up charge and sentenced to three years internal exile in Siberia. Released on 5 November 1933, he was prohibited from living in any large city and spent from 1936 to 1941 working as an auto-mechanic and driver, and even as a ballroom-dancing teacher, in places such as Ufa, Kalinin and Ryazan. Mobilised as a private in June 1941, four years later as a major in charge of transport in the 4th Guards Rifle Corps, he was with the first Red Army units to enter Berlin.

It was while he was still in Germany with the occupying forces at



outlook for mankind. Some of his best writing undoubtedly stems from the patchwork of his personal experience and working life.

His first novel, *Kortik* ("The Dirk"), appeared in 1948 at the height of the "anti-cosmopolitan", i.e. anti-Semitic, campaign, and Aronov was not a name to bear if one wished for literary success or to avoid trouble. Fortunately, his mother's name, Rybakov, was wholly Russian, and henceforth that was the only name by which he would be known.

1964), which contains hints of an anti-Stalinist undercurrent; *Kanikuly Krosha* ("Krosh on Holiday", 1966); *Neizvestnyi soldat* ("The Unknown Soldier", 1970, the final part of the Krosh trilogy; *Vystrel* ("The Shot", 1975, ending the Kortik trilogy).

It was not until 1978, however, that the West heard of him. His novel *Tyazhely Pesok* ("Heavy Sand"), despite evidence of the persistent disguise of tricky subjects was a fairly successful attempt to depict the life of a Jewish family in north-western Ukraine, ranging from the turn of the century to the Holocaust.

Although it was not the first Soviet book to touch on this topic, appearing as it did in a conservative journal, *Oktyabr*, it suggested that the Brezhnev regime wished to send a signal that the Soviet Union was the homeland of Russia's Jews, they had shared the same fate, endured the same sufferings, and that they had no need to leave a great power to go in search of national fulfilment in a tiny country - Switzerland serving as the surrogate for Israel in this case.

As with *Children of the Arbat* a decade later, "Heavy Sand" was meant to serve a useful purpose for the regime. But although many still regard it as Rybakov's best work, it was hopelessly late in coming. By 1978 Soviet Jews had been voting with their feet for nearly a decade.

Children of the Arbat, however, succeeded brilliantly, too brilliantly if one recognises, as one should, the massively corrosive effect of glasnost on the entire structure of the regime. The sequel, *Tridats' pyat' Drugie Gody*, published in the West in 1982 as *Fear*, suffered from the literary weaknesses of *Children of the Arbat*, and came very much as a left-over from the heady days of perestroika.

The true story of Stalinism and the purges, as well as many other crimes of the past, had by now been well documented, as the historians had got down to their proper jobs. Anatoli Rybakov's moment had come in the late 1980s. He had been elected president of Memorial, an organisation largely of writers and intellectuals, dedicated to the collection of documents and memorabilia of the Stalin era, and the planning of a great monument to the dictator's victims, which has yet to materialise. As a speaker at a number of Western universities, even in his eighties his tough, feisty character and manifestly genuine commitment to the cause of freedom in his country, earned him enthusiastic responses from audiences.

HARRY SHUKMAN

Anatoli Naumovich Aronov (Anatoli Rybakov), writer: born Chernigov, Ukraine 14 January 1911; married; died New York 23 December 1998.

Sam Solomon

SAM SOLOMON was a teacher of fighters in Philadelphia whose career peaked when Leon Spinks, an uncomplicated, naive man-child, upset Muhammad Ali to win the world heavyweight title in February 1978.

Solomon had no chance of keeping Spinks, one of boxing's legendary party animals, disciplined for long, but he did inspire him to the triumph for which he will always be known. "Neon Leon" acknowledged as much. "Sam Solomon is more than a trainer," he said before the rematch with Ali, when he was beaten. "He is like a father to me. Sam doesn't only teach me about boxing. He talks to me about a lot of things besides."

Spinks was genuinely grateful for the efforts Solomon made for him, and sorrowful when it went spectacularly wrong. Spinks's promoter Butch Lewis recalled the dreadful time before the rematch when Spinks was merrily conducting a six-month bender instead of dedicating himself to training. Sometimes he was so far off the rails that Solomon would lock the errant champion in his hotel room. And somebody would sleep on a makeshift bed by the door. One morning Lewis himself was on "guard duty" when Solomon woke him up, with the terrible words: "Where's Leon?" The heavyweight champion of the world had escaped out of his window, crossed roads and dropped down into the street. Solomon and Lewis found him playing pool in a bar. For all his failures, Spinks acknowledged Solomon's efforts. "He never got the full credit he deserved for what he did in helping me beat Ali," he said. "Sam was patient with me."

Spinks, who had won the 1976 Olympic light-heavyweight gold medal

in Montreal, was a seven-fight professional novice when they threw him in with Ali. He had no right to box for the championship, but at 36 Ali was buying what time he could against opponents he considered safe.

As well as technical coaching - Solomon taught Spinks to shorten his punches and to counter the moves Ali would make - there was a great deal of psychological work to be done.

There was friction in the Spinks team long before the rematch, partly because of the man's own character and partly because of rivalry and friction between Solomon and the younger Philadelphia trainer George Benton.

Benton, a former world class middleweight and later a widely respected trainer, went on record as saying Solomon did not want him stealing any limelight. Worse, he said Solomon was there merely for the money. "All of a sudden it dawned on me," he said. "These sonsabitches don't think this kid can win this fight... but they're going to get a payday."

In the dressing-room after Spinks had won, Benton recalled bitterly: "I couldn't get next to him. Everybody was pushing me out of the damn way. Leon was Sam Solomon's champ now... I put my clothes on and walked out." The two trainers made up, but fell out again during the rematch in September 1978, which led to Benton leaving the corner in mid-fight. Spinks lost on points and was effectively finished at 25.

Solomon was a long-time resident of Philadelphia, who had around 300 amateur contests and knew one of the greatest trainers in boxing history, Jack Blackburn, who taught heavyweight champion Joe Louis. As well as boxing, he was a serious competitor at baseball - a catcher in the Negro League of the time.

From 1960, he was a boxing trainer, and at different times worked with two other heavyweight champs, Sonny Liston and Ernie Terrell. When Spinks lost to Ali, Solomon faded from the world stage. He was never one of the great coaches but he remained in the game, working with youngsters in Philadelphia until his retirement in the late 1980s. In old age he suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

BOB MEE

Leon Solomon, boxing trainer: born 1915; married; one daughter; one stepdaughter; died Philadelphia 13 December 1998.



'Where's Leon?'

GAZETTE

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Liz James, "Perceptions of Byzantium", 2pm. Wallace Collection: Peter Hughes, "Furniture by Oeben and Riesener", 1pm.

APPOINTMENTS

Miss Kaye Oliver, to be British High Commissioner to the Kingdom of Lesotho. Sir Robin Fearn, to be Chairman of the Anglo-Spanish Society. Mr David John Chimery, to be a Provincial Stipendiary Magistrate for the West Midlands Commission Area. Ms Christina Victoria Mary Hyde, to be a full-time Chairman of Employment Tribunals, assigned to the London South Region. Mr David Anthony Pearl, to be a full-time Chairman of Employment Tribunals, assigned to the London North Region. Mr Justice Charles, to be a Judge of the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (funerals, marriages, marriages, marriages), which must be submitted in writing, are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

BIRTHDAYS

Mrs Jackie Ballard MP, 45; Miss Grace Bumbury, opera and concert singer, 62; Miss Dyan Cannon, actress, 60; Mr Alexander Chancellor, journalist, founding editor of the *Independent Magazine*, 59; Capt Sir Ivar Colquhoun of Luss Bt. Chief of the Clan, 83; Mr Iain Cuthbertson, actor, 69; Sir William Deane, Governor-General of Australia, 68; Mr Alan Dyer, former chief constable, Bedfordshire, 65; Professor Keith Hancock, Australian economist, 64; Lt-Gen Sir Ian Clark Hutchinson, a member of the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 96; Professor Brian Josephson, physicist, 59; Air Vice-Marshal Richard Kyle, 56; Professor Lance Layton, principal, Royal Veterinary College, 55; Mr John McLoughlin, blues and jazz guitarist, 56; Miss Margaret Marshall, concert and opera singer, 50; Mr Mick Miller, footballer, 50; Mr Floyd Patterson, boxing champion, 64; Mr Nicholas Payne, director, the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, 54; Baroness Pitkeathley, chief executive, Carers National Association, 58; Mr Timothy Rix, publisher, 65; Miss Barbara Rush, actress, 68; Mrs Phyllis Starkey MP, 51; Sir Alan Thomas, chairman, Firth Holdings plc, 56; Mrs Audrey Wise MP, 64; Miss Jane Wyman, actress, 85.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh and chronologist, 1581; Giovanni Battista Pergolesi, composer, 1710; Sir William Hillary, founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, 1771; Jakob Ludwig Karl Grimm, philologist and folklorist, 1785; Henry George Bohn, publisher and bookseller, 1796; Louis Braille, deviser of a blind alphabet, 1809; Sir Isaac Pitman, publisher and inventor of Pitman's short-

hand, 1813; Myles Birket Foster, painter, 1825; General Tom Thumb (Charles Sherwood Stratton), dwarf, 1838; Valentine Cameron Prinsep, artist, 1838; Emile Cohl (Courtet), film animator, 1857; Josef Suk, composer, 1874; Alfred Edgar Coppard, poet and short-story writer, 1878; Augustus Edwin John, painter, 1878; Sterling Holloway, actor and comedian, 1905; William Bendix, actor, 1906; Jan Lenica, film animator, 1928.

Deaths: Maréchal François-Henri de Montmorency-Bouteville, Duc de Luxembourg, soldier, 1695; The Rev Stephen Hales, inventor, chemist and plant physiologist, 1761; Charlotte Lennox (née Ramsay), novelist and poet, 1804; Charles Samuel Keene, humorous artist and illustrator, 1891; Clarence Edward Dutton, geologist, 1912; Count Alfred von Schlieffen, field marshal, 1918; Benito Pérez Galdós, writer and poet, 1920; Léon Adolphe Willeite, painter, 1926; Henri Bergson, philosopher, 1941; Theodor Körner, Austrian military leader and president, 1957; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, 1958; Albert Camus, novelist and playwright, killed 1960; Erwin Schrödinger, physicist, 1961; Thomas Stearns Eliot, poet and critic, 1965; Donald Malcolm Campbell, land and water speedster, killed 1967; Said Hammani, representative of the PLO, assassinated 1978; Joy-Friederike Victoria Adamson, naturalist and writer, 1980; Lt-Gen Sir Brian Gwynne Horrocks, military strategist and historian, 1985; Christopher William Bradshaw Isherwood, novelist and playwright, 1986.

On this day: Columbus sailed from America back to Spain in the Nina, 1493; King Charles I attempted to arrest five MPs, 1642; the Austrians, under Joseph Alvinczi, were defeated by Napoleon at Rivoli, 1797; Donizetti's opera *Don Pasquale* was first performed, Paris, 1843; all members of the crew of the Rhyll lifeboat were lost in attempting to save the schooner *Temperance*, 1847; the Fabian Society was founded, 1884; the first appendicectomy operation was performed, 1885; the opera *The Mountebanks*, with libretto by W.S. Gilbert and music by Alfred Cellier was first produced, 1892; Utah became the 45th of the United States, 1896; the Bolsheviks captured Riga, 1919; in India, the National Congress was declared illegal, and Gandhi was arrested, 1932; the liner *Atlantique* caught fire off Cherbourg, and 18 members of the crew lost their lives, 1933; the first chart of pop music was published in the US by the *Billboard*, 1936; the British Fifth Army in Italy attacked Monte Cassino, 1944; Burma became an independent republic, 1948; a strike of barbers' assistants in Copenhagen ended after 33 years, 1961; Pope Paul VI began a tour of the Holy Land, 1964; Rose Heilbron became the first woman to sit as a judge at the Old Bailey, London, 1972.

Today is the Feast Day of St Elizabeth Bayley Seton, St Gregory of Langres, St Pharellidis, St Rigobert of Rheims and St Roger of Ellant.

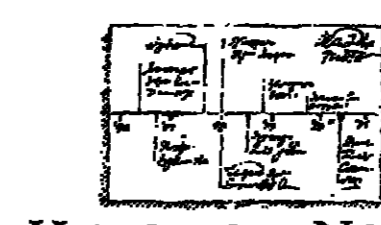
of Loughborough (Norwich); to be also Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (same diocese). The Rev Geoffrey Harris, NSM Curate, Okehampton Team (Exeter); to be Priest-in-Charge, Ashbury, Havert, Beaworthy, Clifton and Tezant with Luffmead (same diocese). The Rev Lesley Mathison, Curate, Goady (Leicester); to be Assistant Chaplain, United Bristol NHS Trust (Bristol). The Rev Stuart Miller, Assistant Curate, Redbridge and Hale with South Charnford (Worcestershire); has been appointed Assistant Curate, Bursledon (same diocese). The Rev Rachel Montgomery, Assistant Curate, Tufnell Park St George and All Saints (London); to be Vicar, Belmont Great St James the Less (same diocese). The Rev Nicola Morgan, Assistant Curate, Lillingdon St Mary Magdalene (Convent); to be Curate-in-Charge, Gospel Lane St Michael (Birmingham). The Rev Richard Press, Priest-in-Charge, Rowde and Poulshot (Salisbury); has been appointed as Priest-in-Charge, Bromham, Clatton and Sandy Lane (same diocese). The Rev Joanna Ray, Diocesan Chaplain, United Deaf People, and Team Vicar, Holy Spirit (Leicester); to be Chaplain, St Andrew's Mental Hospital (Peterborough). The Rev Richard Thompson, Deputy Chaplain, EMP Norwich (Norwich); to be Chaplain, EMP Weyland (same diocese). The Rev Trevor Thorold, Priest-in-Charge, Petton with Cockshott, Westons and Lynton with Colmore, and Area Local Ministry Adviser (Leicester); to be also Rural Dean of Elmstree (same diocese). The Rev Peter Marshall, part-time Chaplain, EMP Dorchester (Salisbury); has been appointed NSM Assistant Curate, Rural Deanery of Sherborne (same diocese). The Rev Bob Whittle, Chaplain to the Dead, St David's (Worcestershire); to be Priest-in-Charge, Walton on the Hill, and Chaplain among Deaf People (same diocese).

Today is the Feast Day of St Elizabeth Bayley Seton, St Gregory of Langres, St Pharellidis, St Rigobert of Rheims and St Roger of Ellant.

CHURCH APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been announced by the Church of England:

The Rev Michael Chett, Team Vicar, Wenlock Team Ministry (Shropshire); to be Priest-in-Charge, Canon Pym with King's Pym, and Eriey, and Wellington (same diocese). The Rev Brian Cole, Rector, Great and Little Dunham, Great and Little Fruntham and Sparke, and Rural Dean of Selkley and Elmham (Norwich); to be also Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (same diocese). The Rev Mick Cutler, Assistant Curate, Cambridge, St Philip (City); to be Rector, Bingham, Blyth with Hensett and Rumbrooke St Edmundsbury (Ipswich). The Rev Martin Gray, Team Rector, Lowestoft St Margaret, and Rural Dean



HISTORICAL NOTES

GRAHAM DUNSTAN MARTIN

Not a sexist but a feminist avant la lettre

IS IT true that poets die young? Jules Laforgue was one of those artists of huge promise such as Chatterton, Arriaga, Keats and Wilfred Owen who were tragically cut down before reaching the age of 30. Had he foreseen his life, none of it would have surprised him, for his favourite philosophers were the gloomy Schopenhauer and von Hartmann, and he took the universe to be an irony practised against its own inhabitants.

He was born in 1860 at Montevideo, but was brought up in a boarding school in the south of France, on the other side of the ocean from his parents. Laforgue was thus effectively "orphaned" at the age of eight.

From 1881 to 1888, he experienced some good fortune, as the official French Reader to Augusta, Empress of Germany. Early in 1886 he began to have English lessons from the young Leah Lee. Jules used to say, "There are three sexes... men, women and Englishwomen," and he meant it as a compliment to Englishwomen. He left Germany late in 1886, and married Leah in London on New Year's Eve, in freezing weather. At some point, he had caught tuberculosis. Poverty-stricken and exhausted, he died in Paris

in 1887, having barely reached his 27th birthday. Leah did not survive him long. She died, also of TB, nine months later.

None the less, in his relatively short life Laforgue had accomplished enough to create something of a revolution in poetry. He is one of the founders of modernism, and was a major influence on British and American poetry. Eliot, Pound, Hart Crane and Wallace Stevens all admired him. But his fellow countrymen are more standoffish. Is this because of his squeamish "Will? Won't she?" attitude to sex; or his blackly ironic world-view; or his facetiousness; or even his taste for gaudy and strident clashes of emotion? Is it because the French have always claimed to understand "l'amour"? The French attitude is partly cynical, partly idealist-romantic. Laforgue's cynicism and idealism about love are equally intense, but he melts with compassion rather than burning with passion.

It is true that poems such as "Our Little Companion" ("I'm Woman everyone knows me") sound, in modern terms, overtly sexist. But we must put Laforgue into the context of his society. He was the victim of the locked-down morals of his time, as were the young women he tried to court and not to court in his own special way. But he was in fact a feminist avant la lettre. He declared quite explicitly that it was time for women to become "our brothers, our bosom friends, with no ulterior motive of exploitation".

There is no stronger personality in early poetry, and certainly the early TS. Eliot adopted his manner wholesale, so that many an Eliot poem seems almost like an English translation of Laforgue. No poet has handled irony with more panache. He is continually sending up the most solemn things, such as love, the universe, the French language, and above all himself.

For Laforgue, poetry was the record of life, lived through changing moments. You have to run to keep up with his moods, as he shifts from mock grandiose to colloquial, from sarcasm to despair, from pity to a shrug. Experience, for him, is as various as a set of Impressionist paintings taken of the same scene. And he was intensely fond of the Impressionists' oeuvre.

Graham Dunstan Martin is the translator of Jules Laforgue's 'Selected Poems' (Penguin Classics, £9.99)

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
fire-new, adj.

though branding-irons are less familiar to most of us than loast and croissants. As for spanking new, the origins are unclear possibly an echo of the Danish *spanke*, to strut, while span new goes back to the 14th century, a shortening of the Old Norse for new chip. A digression to warm the great Burgess's shade.

Today's special: the dried bran and water diet

I HAVE been thinking a lot about food lately. This is because I am not getting any. My wife, you see, recently put me on a diet after suggesting (a little unkindly, if you ask me) that I was beginning to look like something Richard Branson would try to get airborne.

It is an interesting diet of her own devising, which essentially allows me to eat anything I want so long as it contains no fat, cholesterol, sodium or calories. And isn't tasty.

In order to keep me from starving altogether, she went to the supermarket and bought everything that had "bran" in its title. I am not sure, but I believe I had bran cutlets for dinner last night. I am very depressed.

Obesity is a serious problem in America. (Well, serious for fat people anyway.) Half of all adult Americans are overweight and more than a third are defined as obese (ie, big enough to make you think twice before getting in a lift with them).

Now that hardly anyone smokes, it has taken over as the number one health fad in the country. About 300,000 Americans

die every year from diseases related to obesity, and the nation spends \$100bn treating illnesses arising from overeating - diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, and so on. I hadn't realized it, but being overweight can increase your chance of getting colon cancer - and this is a disease you really don't want to have - by as much as 50 per cent. (Ever since I read that, I keep imagining a proctologist examining me and saying: "Wow. Just how many cheeseburgers have you had in your life, Mr Bryson?") Being overweight also substantially reduces your chances of surviving surgery, not to mention getting a decent date.

Above all, it means that people who are theoretically dear to you will call you "Mr Blimpy" and ask you what you think you are doing every time you open a cupboard door and, entirely by accident, remove a large bag of Cheez Doodles.

The wonder to me is how anyone can be thin in this country. We went to a restaurant the other night where they were promoting something called

"Skillet Sensations". Here (and every word of this is true) is the menu's description of the Chilli Cheese Tater Skillet:

"We start this incredible combination with crispy, crunchy waffle fries. On top of those we generously ladle spicy chili, melted Monterey Jack and cheddar cheeses, and pile high with tomatoes, green onions, and sour cream."

You see what I am up against? And this was one of the more modest offerings. The most depressing thing is that my wife and children can eat this stuff and not put on an ounce. When the waitress came, my wife said: "The children and I will have the De Luxe Supreme Goo Skillet Feast, with extra cheese and sour cream, and a side order of onion rings with hot fudge sauce and biscuit gravy."

"And for Mr Blimpy here?"

"Just bring him some dried bran and a glass of water."

When, the following morning over a breakfast of oat flakes and chaff, I expressed to my wife the opinion that this was, with all respect, the most stupid diet I had ever come across, she told



me to find a better one, so I went to the library. There were at least 150 books on diet and nutrition - Dr Berger's Immune Power Diet, Straight Talk About Weight Control, The Rotation Diet - but they were all a little earnest and bran-obsessed for my tastes. Then I saw one that was precisely of the type I was looking for. By Dale M Atkins, PhD, it was called *Don't Diet*. Now here was a title I could work with.

Relaxing my customary aversion to consulting a book by anyone so immensely pratty as to put "PhD" after his name (I don't

put PhD after my name on my books, after all - and not just because I don't have one), I took the book to that reading area that libraries put aside for people who are strange and have nowhere to go in the afternoons but none the less are not quite ready to be institutionalized, and devoted myself to an hour's reflective study.

The premise of the book, if I understood it correctly (and forgive me if I am a little sketchy on some details, but I was distracted by the man next to me, who was having a quiet chat with a person from the next dimension), is that the human body has been programmed by aeons of evolution to pack on adipose tissue for insulating warmth in periods of cold, padding for comfort, and energy reserves in times of crop failures.

The human body - mine in particular, evidently - is extremely good at doing this. Tree shrews can't do it at all. They must spend every waking moment eating. "This may be why tree shrews have produced so little great art or music," Atkins quips. Ha! Ha! Ha! Then

again, it may be because the tree shrew eats leaves, whereas I eat Ben and Jerry's double chocolate fudge ice cream.

The other interesting thing Atkins points out is that fat is exceedingly stubborn. Even when you starve yourself half to death, the body shows the greatest reluctance to relinquish its fat reserves.

Consider that each pound of fat represents 5,000 calories - about what the average person eats in total in two days. That means that if you starved yourself for a week - ate nothing at all - you would lose no more than 3½ pounds of fat, and let's face it, still wouldn't look a picture in your swimming costume.

Having tortured yourself in this way for seven days, naturally you would slip into the pantry when no one was looking and eat everything in there but a bag of chickpeas, and gain back all the loss, plus - and here's the crux - a little something extra, because now your body knows that you have been trying to starve it and are not to be trusted, so it had better lay in a

little extra wobble in case you get any more foolish notions. This is why dieting is so frustrating and hard. The more you try to get rid of your fat, the more ferociously your body holds on to it.

So I have come up with an ingenious alternative diet. I call it the Fool-Your-Body-20-Hour-a-Day Diet.

The idea is that for 20 hours in each 24 you ruthlessly starve yourself, but at four selected intervals during the day - for convenience we'll call them breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight snack - you feed your body something like a plate of sausage, chips and beans, or a large bowl of double chocolate fudge ice cream, so that it doesn't realize that you are starving it. Brilliant, eh?

I don't know why I didn't think of this years ago. I think it may be that all this bran has cleared my head. Or something.

Extracted from *Notes from a Big Country* by Bill Bryson, published by Doubleday at £16.99. Available from all major bookshops or by mail order on 01624 675137

Portrait of a marriage

A FAMILY AFFAIR

Fionula Boyd, 54, and Les Evans, 53, met at St Albans art college. When neither could find work separately as painters they started working on joint pictures and, 25 years later, they still work as a team. Their paintings - always signed Boyd and Evans - have been exhibited worldwide and are shown regularly at the Angela Flowers' gallery in London. They have two children, Jack, 29, a journalist and Ruby, 27, in television production. They live in Milton Keynes



Boyd and Evans: 'The best pictures have come from a blending of our two ideas'

Keith Dobney

Fionula W e started painting together as an experiment. We got married at the end of our second year at college but it was a difficult time after we finished art college. Suddenly nobody was interested in what we were doing and we had to try to make a living. We used to sit around drawing on the same bit of paper wondering what to do, and out of that grew the idea of trying to do the same pictures. For a year we both taught - living on one salary and saving the other.

A lot of the working together process is achieving a shared vision and we talk a lot before starting. It was not so easy at first, and there were times when I had to fight for an idea and Les couldn't seem to grasp it. That made for tensions, certainly, but the best pictures have come from a blending of our two ideas, and the great thing about spending so much time together is that we have a big bank of shared references. Even when we are working on the picture alone we know how the other person wants it to be.

One of the hardest things in the beginning was the fact we had different styles so we used spray painting for the first ten years because that creates a uniformity. We moved on to brushes because we had come much closer in style. So now I might paint one part of a canvas, standing next to Les, and he another bit and you wouldn't know we were different artists.

The worst bit about working together is having Les come up and stand behind me after I've been in the studio all day going "It's not right." On those occasions I'm ready to strangle Les. But the other side is something quite wonderful when I can't see what is wrong and Les can, then it's much quicker than worrying through the process yourself.

We don't feel strongly about who puts the first line or splash of paint on to a canvas because we really do

want to achieve a joint signature where people see a Boyd and Evans picture not our individual bits. If it's a big picture I might put one thing on the canvas, Les something else and then we might work side by side doing other parts at the same time. It all sounds terribly harmonious but we can't always reach agreement. One of us will think something is a terribly good idea, and the other just doesn't feel it and there are times

when I think Les is being a complete pig. And if he is working on the other half of a painting with me and I want to let off steam he is very aware of it. Often we simply can't carry on and things get tense. We will end up disagreeing about everything - even what's on the radio or when to stop for a cup of tea.

When we were sharing the care of the children and each desperately wanting to paint it was awful. I

think our biggest achievement was to survive that time. It was so hard not to be resentful that you couldn't have time in the studio. I'd look in the window of the studio and see Les reading the paper and think what the bloody hell is he doing? Or if he was looking after the kids and one got its head stuck in a cupboard and was screaming and Les could have heard it I'd be furious and think - I can't even go into the studio and

leave the kids. But then we would come together to work out something to do with a painting and although I wouldn't call it therapy we had to resolve relationship problems because everything would have fallen apart otherwise.

Going to the rainforest in Brunei to paint was a watershed for us. We had to loosen up the way we were working and be more direct. We sat under the same big umbrella

painting in oils like impressionists. We are planning to go to America this year, doing work for an exhibition in Los Angeles next November. Sometimes we wonder whether we could still produce pictures without each other. Are we separate people or are we too scared to put ourselves on the line? Sometimes I want to try working alone, but not as much as I want to be with Les. He is such a great friend and, whatever has happened through the years, we have never been bored with each others' company.

Les W hen we are working together on the same picture in the studio there are technical matters we have to agree on - simple things like how to touch it. A big picture would wobble if, say, Nula was doing something in the sky on the right with big strokes pushing hard to get paint into canvas, and I'm doing a figure in fine detail the other side. But we work things out. On a very big landscape Nula starts at one end, I start in the middle and we both move to the left.

There are times when I'll take over a picture and not be happy with what she has done but we've learned that the really important thing is to try to be reasonable and think about how the other one will feel. Of course it isn't always easy and one of the tough things about working side by side is if your partner gets frustrated. When that happens with Nula I always feel responsible and I resent it.

An absolutely key thing is discussing colours and getting them right. But we both have our own paint trolleys and they are sacred. I wouldn't touch Nula's because she might go mad, and she wouldn't come near mine because it is so messy.

We didn't stop to think what having children would mean to us as artists but certainly the hardest

time was when they were little. We couldn't afford to have anyone look after the children so we tried to be very fair to each other about dividing the time. We tried one of us painting in the mornings, the other in the afternoons. When that didn't work we tried alternate days, and then we experimented with one week on, one week off. None of it really worked because we became like two separate artists. I would go into the studio and come out saying this is what I've been thinking about, and we would talk it through and I would think Nula understood, but somehow when she went off and worked alone her own idea would turn into something completely different and I wouldn't know where it had come from. By the time I got back to the studio I would feel frantic.

The paintings we did at this time were useless because our whole way of working and thinking was turned upside down. There was no flow and everything seemed to take so long. And of course the tension over that bounced through the whole relationship and we got very good at picking on ridiculous things and turning them into a row. Yet the amazing thing was that we did manage to stay co-operative over the paintings. I think we both realised this was too important to destroy.

The rainforest was a very important time for us because we could stop, be very quiet and think. And it was just wonderful being up the river with no post, no phone, just working every day. We were very close there.

After the last show there were things we didn't like and we talked about the possibility of not working together. But once we realised that we didn't have to work together, things seemed easier. Now, with the children grown up and trips like the rainforest possible, Nula and I feel in many ways that we are only just beginning our work together.

INTERVIEWS BY ANGELA NEUSTAITER

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

LIAMACREST LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Cork Gully, Bessan House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JF, on 14th January 1999, at 10.15 AM, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

A list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors may be inspected free of charge between 10.00am and 5.00pm at Cork Gully, Bessan House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JF, on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting.

Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must (unless they are individual creditors attending in person) submit their proxies at Cork Gully, Bessan House, 33 Wellington Street, Leeds LS1 4JF, on or before the business day preceding the date of the meeting.

Dated this 23rd day of December 1998.

By Order of the Board
P. O'Brien, Director

Legal Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

CORALLIN LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at The White Hart, Bridge Street, Andover, Hampshire SP10 1BL, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to section 98(2)(b) of the Act, a list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge at Levy Gate, 4th Floor, Southfield House, 1 Liverpool Gardens, Worthing, West Sussex, BN11 1RY, on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting, between the hours of 11.00am and 4.00pm.

Dated this 23rd day of December 1998.

By Order of the Board
Martin Kelly, Director

Legal Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

SERVICES LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 2, Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS1 1EF, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to section 98(2)(b) of the Act, a list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 24th December 1998.

By Order of the Board
David Brook, Director

Legal Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

THE MAYLE GROUP LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 2, Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS1 1EF, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to section 98(2)(b) of the Act, a list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 17th day of December 1998.

By Order of the Board
B. Alston, Director

Legal Notices

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

THE MAYLE GROUP LTD

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above-named Company will be held at 2, Nelson Street, Southend-On-Sea, Essex SS1 1EF, for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

Pursuant to section 98(2)(b) of the Act, a list of the names and addresses of the Company's Creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, with such information concerning the Company's affairs as they may reasonably require.

Dated 17th day of December 1998.

By Order of the Board
B. Alston, Director

Legal Notices

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Dated 17th day of December 1998.

By Order of the Board
B. Alston, Director

Legal Notices

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Dated 17th day of December 1998.

By Order of the Board
B. Alston, Director

The ad man's new pitch

Continued from page 1
Tennis stars have advertised racquets and balls for ever and Pete Sampras - handsome but wooden - citing the virtues of Babolat strings by saying "It's the best string that's made; that's why I use it", hardly belongs in the same universe as Nike and Adidas. Umbro, the market leader in football strips, has a somewhat ambiguous position in all this. Football strips, as David Mellor can testify, are worn for real - and unreal - reasons by a great variety of people. The mix of motives between utility, display and tribalism is rich and thick. And Umbro can be a brilliant advertiser. They produced a beautiful TV commercial around the time of the European Cup, working the theme of heart and soul with an ad set in a well-observed but picturesque South American slum where everything, but everything hangs on the Big Match on TV. The moral - one I'll return to - is it's right for real people (that is, poor outsiders) to give their hearts to football.

But there's more to be seen outside the arena than in it. Because outside the arena, some of the biggest advertisers in the world have been muscling in on sports quite massively. Strongly child and teen-orientated adver-

tisers like Coca-Cola, McDonalds and Pizza Hut - laddish but, objectively, profoundly unsporty - have bought up every relevant sportsman with a pulse. The media increasingly see sport as key to the building of "brand personality". The most dramatic, religious appropriation of this kind came in a Sky Sports commercial (the first in a series of increasingly ambitious and expensive promotions), in which Sean Bean, actor and footballer *mamqué*, strode about a football pitch describing the beautiful game as "art, drama, religion, everything" to the fans, saying that we - meaning Sky - understood because we felt that way too. It was breathtaking in its cheek - Bean came across like the leader of the Peasant's Revolt. The "we understand" was presumably to underline Sky Sport's dedicated role for sports nuts - the viewer who doesn't want their media diet interrupted by news, drama or documentary - as quite distinct from those uncultured, old terrestrial channels.

As Robert Campbell, a leading London creative director, said recently: "It's easy to sell a football script to a client. Everyone thinks football sells; it's the new safe thing to do." Sports advertising involves its clients in just this kind of safe, high-profile,

high-spend heroics. It's a role that can be parlayed into a lot of foreign trips, big parties and celebrity-hopping. With many of these sports sponsorships and themes, the heart rules the head and the task of brand-building consistency gets lost in the boyish blur.

In the real world there has to be a backlash. The *Times*' political feature writer Matthew Parris recently complained that sport was exerting an unhealthy dominance in polite conversation. It was all too much. Why, he said, he'd even noticed that gay men had started talking about football as to the manner born. And he'd become a homosexual to get away from that kind of thing.

This is a shortened version of an essay which appears in *Winning: The Design of Sports*, edited by Sue Andrew, published by Laurence King at £19.95. Readers of *The Independent* can buy copies at the special price of £15 (including P&P). Phone Laura Willis on 0171-831 6351, fax on order to 0171-831 8356 or e-mail laura@calmann-king.co.uk.

An exhibition, *Winning: The Design of Sports*, opens on 8 January at the MacLellan Galleries, 270 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow.

Deborah Ross is on holiday



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a Ross is on holiday

NETWORK

Something evil in your inbox

E-mail is rapidly becoming many people's preferred method of communication. But its growing popularity also brings the potential for abuse - both Steve Crawshaw, writing below, and Steve Phillips, right, have experienced the darker side of cyberspace



HANNAH CAL 99

I had been looking forward to the day when we would get e-mail at home. Receiving electronic postcards from friends and colleagues around the world - what could be more pleasant?

I duly registered with the chosen service provider. So far, so simple. A few hours later, I logged on for a quick stumble around the Internet. To my surprise, a disembodied voice informed me: "You've got mail." Who could have written to me already? What drama, what excitement! I eagerly double-clicked to discover what the postman had dropped on the electronic hall mat.

And there the surprises began. In the subject field, the messages had titles like "Replying to your message", and equally innocuous stuff. Inside, almost all the messages offered teen sex, in terms that would make a Central London phone kiosk blush. (On a machine that was - theoretically - bought primarily for the use of my 12-year-old daughter.)

To start with, my experience made me assume that all e-mail subscribers are deluged with unwanted messages in this way. I thought that spam - junk e-mail, which piles up in lorryloads on your electronic doorstep - must be an inevitable

serious denial on the subject - for understandable reasons. When I first rang AOL's customer support line, I was informed that I must have entered a chat room (no, I hadn't), or posted my name elsewhere on the Web (no, sorry). The AOL press office seemed equally biased. I was proudly informed of the extensive measures that AOL has taken to enable subscribers to block out pornographic and other spam. Broadly, AOL provides two ways of blocking junk e-mail. One involves blocking all messages except from pre-specified addresses - so no surprises from that forgotten friend in Austria, St Austell or Australia. Alternatively, you can specify which addresses you wish to block out. That sounds more promising, except that the spammers are not stupid. They change their addresses constantly, so that by the time you have blocked one, they have already moved house, electronically speaking. AOL has taken a number of spammers to court in the US to protect its subscribers, but still the problem persists.

Software is now on sale which enables spammers to create lists of millions of known addresses. Sometimes, however, they only need to pluck subscribers' names out of the stratosphere. Many spam e-mails are not even addressed to me in the header field. Instead, the main addressee may have an alphabetically similar name - crawl, crawf, even crawlyman. Sometimes, the main addressee is a heap of jumbled figures and numbers: gktxs, or similar. Either way, it seems that my name is buried deep on the "bcc" list of "blind-copy" addresses, invisible to the person receiving the e-mail. The computer takes alphabetical pot luck: if the addressee exists, then bingo! If the addressee does not exist, then the message is simply bounced back. The sender of the messages is not bothered if millions of cyberspace messages do not get through; some will, and that is all that matters.

Theoretically, you can respond to such e-mails, demanding to be taken off the spammer's list. But few specialists recommend that you do so. As Richard Bagely notes: "It's useful for them to know that this address is genuine, and that the message has been read." Sit tight, say nothing, and hope that they will go away, is generally reckoned to be the best advice.

Powerful new software is said to be on the way which will make it easier to block the spammers. But I am reluctant to wait that long. AOL seems to believe that it has the problem under control. As for me, I've had enough. Sure, AOL has lots of features that make it simple to use. But I am off to quieter pastures, where the spammers may find the pickings less rewarding. In this case, big seems to be ugly. I could do with a bit of cyber-peace at last.

Almost all of the messages offered teen sex - on a machine bought primarily for the use of my 12-year-old daughter

condition of the wired world. Then I discovered that it is not quite as inevitable - at least not in such quantity - as I had thought. Few computer-owners seem to have the problems that we do: several hardcore propositions a day. And those who do have one thing in common: the service provider that they use.

Early in my researches, when I mentioned the problem to a computer-savvy acquaintance, her first clairvoyant question took me aback. "Are you with AOL?" Er, yes, actually. "I thought so." AOL sells itself on its user-friendliness, and is currently marketing itself as being ideal for the first steps on the Net. But it fails to mention its attractiveness to professional spammers, too. As Richard Bagely, deputy editor of *Internet* magazine, points out: "AOL is a particular target because it has 14 million users."

It would not be an exaggeration to say that AOL appears to be in

E-mail abuse from a woeful spell-checker

When an e-mail titled *Your Property* arrived at my inbox at work, it brought a smile to my face. It was two years since we advertised our house on the Web. When it was sold soon afterwards, by more conventional means, I let the Web estate agent know, but the advert remained online. Once in a while, somebody missed the "Sold" banner and got in touch, and here was another one.

This message, however, was different. A page of bizarre insults about the house, quite a bit of random swearing, followed by an offer - would I swap the house for a night with his wife?

The author, a Mr Zachopoulos, was using an e-mail address provided by Hotmail, the free e-mail service owned by Microsoft, so there was no clue to his location. A few hours later he followed up with another message. Had I considered his more than generous offer? I decided, perhaps foolishly, to respond. I told him that I found his messages offensive, and that I would forward them to Hotmail.

The Hotmail website gave me an address for complaints about unwanted e-mail, and within minutes

of sending the messages, back came a reply from their auto-response system. There was a lot of information about how good Hotmail is at stopping misuse of their mail accounts, and a promise to reply to me as soon as possible. They never did.

The next day, Mr Zachopoulos changed his name to Mr Wrench, and came back with more streams of abuse from the same Hotmail address. Later on, another message arrived from a Carl Smith, with an e-mail address of srmrmanagem@hotmail.com. He told me that the culprit, a German schoolboy using his father's account, had been traced and the account removed. He hoped that I could forgive him. Carl's message contained a lot of spelling mistakes.

Three days later, it started again. The e-mail address had changed to one provided by postmaster.co.uk, but the abuse was the same, if not worse. I found the complaints address at Postmaster, and forwarded the message to them. Back came a reply promising to look into it. That was the last I heard from them.

The next two hours brought a further eight messages. First of all, a warning from Carl Smith that the culprit had started to use a new Hotmail address, and that they were

continuing to monitor him. Oddly enough though, this time the message was signed by Carl Thomas. Then there were three messages from the new address, more obscenities, this time signed by Andy K. Then another from Carl Smith/Thomas, assuring me that they were doing all they could to trace the messages. Another thought came to me. Hotmail is based in the United States, on the West Coast - how come all these nice people were working so hard when they should be in bed? When I tried to contact them by phone, even the fax machine was turned off.

A few minutes later, more garbage arrived, with my own name in the "from" box. But underneath it, the e-mail address was still the latest Hotmail one.

Finally, to round the day off, a Mr Fielding of foreignenquiries@hotmail.com informed me that the culprit had been traced and was now being arrested "for Internet crimes". He also mentioned that I would be entitled to compensation for my troubles. Unfortunately, Mr Fielding seemed to have the same spelling problem as Carl. By now I was intrigued. Who was this pest?

For the next few days, the swearing stopped, but the messages from

Carl continued. Apparently, as well as compensation, there was a good chance that the BBC would be using my case in a documentary about e-mail abuse. He gave me a name at the BBC, but a quick check with them proved that this was fictitious. When I told Carl this, he turned nasty, and threatened to take my name off the list which he was sending to the producer.

At this point, I decided to try Hotmail again. I sent all the details to their Advertising Sales department, where I thought that a human might read the incoming messages. Sure enough, somebody replied, saying that they had forwarded my complaint to the Abuse department. Apart from two more auto-respond messages, I heard no more.

Over the weekend, all went quiet, but on the Monday, a new record of 12 messages arrived. By now, Carl had dropped all pretence of being senior management, and he weighed in with his own stream of abuse.

A different approach was called for. The header information of the messages contained an IP address, the number which identifies networked machines. The first three numbers were always the same, but the fourth varied. I went to a website (www.ripe.net) where you can

find out who an IP address is allocated to. This told me that the range of addresses belonged to a UK Internet service provider. A couple of phone calls got me through to their support department. At last, a human voice who could help me. He confirmed that the addresses were those used by a number of schools on their dial-in service.

I sent him the full collection of messages. From the times of the messages and the IP addresses, he was able to pin it down to one school. The school was informed, and they began to monitor the Web activity on their computers. The next day I was told that the culprit had been identified.

That, I hope, is the end of it. Maybe I was wrong to reply in the first place - but perhaps my efforts have spared someone else the same treatment. It has certainly shown, despite their claims, how powerless the e-mail service providers are.

Maybe they are flooded with similar complaints, but at a time when I wanted to know what was going on, I heard absolutely nothing from them. Even if they did manage to close down one account, another one was opened.

If Carl ever gets a spell-checker, he might start to fool people.

Can technology bring about a kinder, more just world?

As 1998 wound down, I've been sitting around the fire a lot - unbelievably, it snowed here in Silicon Valley - keeping warm and thinking about technology and people.

To be sure, these are my two favourite topics. I love to lurk and watch as we humans, admirably evolved to be hunter-gatherers, confront things like operating systems, personal digital assistants and even video-recorder displays - you know, the ones that are always blinking "12:00 AM".

One of my favorite thinkers, Freeman Dyson, believes we have a real problem at the end of the 20th Century and second Millennium. Dyson thinks technology has become a wedge driving the haves and the have-nots ever more widely apart, and writes about it in his book *Imagined Worlds*.

In a previous column, I wrote about how Dyson's words came

home, hard, as I sat in the deep leather seats of a friend's hi-tech, wired-to-the-max Jeep speeding past farm workers in the rain and cold of California's Central Valley. Warm and comfortable, sitting amid the many blessings of my technologically driven life, this disturbing thought returned.

Dyson is adept at following events in numerous disparate fields - sociology and nuclear weaponry, astronomy and biology, history and mechanics - and weaving these threads in interesting and revealing ways. Dyson, a mathematician by training, is Professor Emeritus at Princeton University's Institute for Advanced Study, as well as a writer of popular books about science.

An unabashed supporter of the sciences, Dyson nevertheless contends that many of the ills of current American society are due to science. Drugs, guns, racial intolerance and illiteracy may be the immediate causes of our social morass, but the unwise application of science is

the deeper root. Science is a mixed blessing in Dyson's view. It grants great and god-like powers to human practitioners who, unfortunately, have a decidedly chequered record as far as the wise application of said science goes.

On the one hand, scientists create cures for polio, on the other, biological weapons. Without a well-developed moral and ethical framework to guide us, humanity is in big trouble as our knowledge, and powers increase.

Technology, the child of science, has not favoured a kinder and more just world. In Dyson's opinion, America's ills, and those seen elsewhere in the world, result whenever the gap between rich and poor widens sufficiently.

Contrast, say, a resident of Sierra Leone, the nation at the bottom of the UN's list of livable countries, and a certain resident of the US, Bill Gates. A Sierra Leone resident makes on average \$179 a year. Bill Gates is

currently worth \$73,433,864,275, according to the "Titan Ticker" on *Upside* magazine's Web site, and his wealth has been increasing at a recent annualised rate of just over \$21bn. Poorest guy: \$179, richest guy: \$21bn - today's gap makes, say,

revolutionary France look downright appealing, never mind that the gap might be the one between one's head and body.

An economist has said that Bill Gates is worth more than the 100 million or so of the poorest Americans put together. The UN says that the world's 358 billionaires are worth more than the countries with 45 per cent of the world's population - some three billion people.

The gap between rich and poor is, indeed, the culprit. In absolute terms, a poor American is far better off than a poor Sierra Leonean. The American will earn much more, eat better, live longer and see more children survive to be adults than his or her African counterpart. This datum will, however, in no way reduce the frustration or sense of uselessness that often befalls people trapped in American poverty.

Science and technology create the machines that replace unskilled workers and the computers that replace unskilled

clerks. Computers tied into global information networks make it easy for companies to send jobs to nations with the lowest bidders, reducing dramatically the numbers of good, well-paid blue-collar jobs that once led to education for working-class children, and an all-important chance to escape the poverty cycle.

"Because of science, families with access to computers and to higher education are rapidly becoming a hereditary caste, the children inheriting these advantages from their parents," writes Dyson. "... children deprived of legitimate opportunities to earn a living have strong economic incentives to join gangs and become criminals." Social displacement follows hard on the heels of technological revolution.

Dickens prospered by writing about the wretched plight of people displaced in the Industrial Revolution, when land and agrarian skills were quickly pushed aside by capital and

manufacturing skills as the basis of wealth. Must we repeat history as the Information Age dawns?

In my neighbourhood, most 9-year-olds are computer-literate. I bought my 13-year-old nephew an iMac for Christmas. A few miles from here, nine years marks the age when kids are first being lured by gangs, and more than a few 13-year-olds either have a gun or know where to get one. Dyson reports the same grim disparity between his home town of Princeton and its neighbor, Trenton.

So what's the answer? Technology?

Steve Jobs answered that one particularly well, I'm told, at a recent education conference. Asked if technology could help solve the problem of illiteracy, he thought for a moment, then said no, only teachers and parents can do that.

Happy New Year, all I, for one, intend to spend the coming year looking for ways to chip away at "the gap".

cg@guilser.com



Families with access to computers and to higher education are becoming a hereditary caste

currently worth \$73,433,864,275, according to the "Titan Ticker" on *Upside* magazine's Web site, and his wealth has been increasing at a recent annualised rate of just over \$21bn. Poorest guy: \$179, richest guy: \$21bn - today's gap makes, say,

10/NETWORK

MY TECHNOLOGY

WC beats PC any day

Richard O'Brien, the actor and musician, hates computers, but celebrates items as diverse as the flushing toilet, whitewall tyres, pen, paper and face cream

I am a technophobe, but... as far as I'm concerned, the Industrial Revolution happened far too early. Imagine the two Great Wars without steel, rubber, oil and so on to back them up. Imagine our streets without cars choking both them and us to death.

Technology is something that I have always shied away from, and yet I'm eternally grateful that Thomas Crapper, or whoever, invented the U-Bend water-trap lavatory. Life without that accommodating convenience doesn't bear thinking about.

Also, I'm a fervent fan of the bottle opener, especially the "two in one" variety that whips the top off a beer and pulls the cork from a bottle of something delicious.

The telephone has its limited appeal. Radio, cinema, TV ditto. But computers? I'm very glad that there are people out there who are attempting to tame these insidious monsters. People who can whip them into submission and get them to spit out an airline ticket.

Oh my God, there's another thing - aeroplanes. They may



Richard O'Brien with his crowning glories of technological advance Neville Elder

save you from a long swim, but what about all the other stresses and strains we're subjected to? Why people include air travel in their holiday plans is beyond my comprehension.

Over the past 10 or so years, many people have attempted to

save me on the various virtues of the word processor. What a load of tosh. What's wrong with a notebook and a ballpoint? Which reminds me of a talk I heard recently. The Americans needed a ballpoint pen that would work in space and so they

spent several scillions of dollars developing one. The Russians solved the same problem by using a pencil.

If we were pushed into a corner with a pointy stick and asked to name the most important breakthrough in man's

technological advancement, most people would cry out "the wheel, the wheel". After all, that's what they taught us at school, and school's never wrong. However, if the pointy stick was jabbed in my direction, it wouldn't be the wheel that got my endorsement, wonderful though it is, especially with whitewall tyres. No, my vote would be for something that very few of my fellow beings would elevate above said wheel. I speak not of the microchip, nor of Teflon, Spandex or even the carburettor.

And so, without further ado, ladies and gentlemen, I give you tinted moisturiser, available in a wide range of skin tones. I won't listen to any arguments. I don't care about the sextant or even the Spinning Jenny. But, care I do for the mask of artificial health, and long may it remain on our shelves at reasonable prices. Shallow? Men? Heaven forbid.

'Absolute O'Brien' (Medical Records) will be released on 14 February

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

The events that shaped the Web in 1998

IF THE Web in 1997 was about the explosive growth of the online population, the Web in 1998 was about creating sites that all the visitors to the Web could actually use.

There have been several astounding and unpredictable changes in the field of Web design, but there have also been more than a few *fits* as the Web evolved to meet the growing demands of an increasingly diverse population. Let's look back at the events from 1998 that shaped the Web as we know it today.

The Browsers

Like the year before, the two big players in the browser business were Netscape's Navigator (www.netscape.com) and Microsoft's Internet Explorer (www.microsoft.com). Both browsers started 1998 with their 4.0 versions going head to head, with some modifications over the course of the year, but no monumental changes. Web designers still struggled to master all of the new powers at their disposal while keeping an eye on the older browsers commonly in use.

Yet in 1998 the tide turned on Netscape as it continued to lose market share to Microsoft. Netscape tried several tactics to plug the leak, including giving away not only its browser but also the code used to create it (www.independent.

co.uk/net/980407ne/story5.html). However, in the end, Netscape would have to sell itself to AOL (let's not forget that that stands for America Online) to stay in the game (www.independent.co.uk/net/981130ne/story6.html). There is no question that this will have an impact on Web design as the "killer-app" which put the Web on the map is subsumed by another company with deeper pockets.

Microsoft was not without its own problems with Internet Explorer, but these were of a legal nature when the US government accused the company that Bill Gates built of illegally using its operating system to force its browser into the homes of every PC owner. This case has yet to be settled, and may drag on well into 1999 before we even get a preliminary decision out of the US legal system.

But 1998 also saw the emergence of a significant alternative to the big two browsers. Although developed in 1994, the Opera browser (www.opera.com) came to the attention of a wider audience this year as more and more users became disenchanted with the browser wars (www.independent.co.uk/net/980526ne/story4.html). Although far from perfect, Opera claims to adhere to the standards being set down by the World Wide Web Consortium (www.w3c.org), which

WEB DESIGN



JASON CRANFORD TEAGUE

is something all Web designers can appreciate.

Languages and Standards

This year saw an explosion in the number of standards being worked on by the W3C, some of which will impact Web design in the near future and some of which, well, we'll just have to wait and see. The most significant standard to be proposed - if not actually implemented in a browser yet - is the new HTML 4.0 standard (www.independent.co.uk/net/980120ne/story4.html). HTML 4.0 was supposed to revolutionise the way we create Web pages. However, over a year after its introduction, it is still just a good idea. Why? Well, there are two problems: none of the browsers have implemented this stan-

dard and, even if both browsers did use it, there would still be a significant population of older browsers which can not use this new technology. These problems are a recurring theme with new Web technologies.

Cascading Style Sheets (www.independent.co.uk/net/980407ne/story8.html) had been around as a standard proposed by the W3C for a while, but it was not until last year that it became a household (the Web house, that is) word. Ironically, it was not because of the power CSS has to layout text on the Web - which is what it was actually designed to do - but because of a much glitzier concept: Dynamic HTML (www.independent.co.uk/net/980706ne/story6.html). CSS is the cornerstone of DHTML, and when combined with JavaScript can be used to do some really cool things. DHTML has been growing in popularity this year after a shaky start in 1997. But it does have some competition.

Macromedia introduced the Flash and the Flash plug-in (www.macromedia.com/software/flash/) to allow Web designers the freedom of using vector-based graphics and to create more "dynamic" Web pages (www.independent.co.uk/net/980727ne/story4.html). It has taken off in a big way. Despite its reliance on a browser plug-in, several big name sites,

such as Dreamworks Records (www.dreamworkrecords.com), have built their sites entirely around Flash technology. Flash might well be the future of design on the Web, especially after Macromedia proposed it as a standard.

Software

After years of waiting, software specially designed for the creation of Web graphics was released (www.independent.co.uk/net/980817ne/story5.html) in 1998.

In fact, not one, not two, but three packages tailored to the needs of Web designers came from the three major graphic software companies: Adobe's Image Ready (www.adobe.com/products/imageready/main.html), Macromedia's FireWorks (www.macromedia.com/software/fireworks/), and MetaCreation's Painter 5.5 Web Edition (www.metacreation.com/products/painter55/Painter55.html).

These programs all offer special features geared towards the optimal creation of attractive, yet fast-loading Web graphics. That said, Adobe's Photoshop still reigns supreme as the graphics program of choice for most professional Web designers and there is little sign that this will change.

Last year also saw the evolution of software used to create Web sites. GoLive's CyberStudio (www.golive.com) came out with its 3.0 version, which included DHTML capabilities, while Macromedia released the 2.0 version of DreamWeaver (www.macromedia.com/software/dreamweaver/). DreamWeaver, in fact, started out as a program specifically designed for the creation of DHTML, and matured this year by integrating Allaire's Homesite HTML editor (www.allaire.com) for its Window's version and BBEdit (www.bbedit.com) for its Mac version.

Web Design in 1999?

Well, if we listened to everyone who thought they knew what the future was going to be like in 1999 we should be expecting Moon Base Alpha to be breaking out of orbit and start tearing across the galaxy any minute now.

But, alas, Space 1999 has not happened, and I can't promise that any predictions I could make here would be any more accurate. I can say with some certainty that we will be seeing new 5.0 browsers released before the middle of the year by both Netscape and Microsoft.

Unfortunately, however, I can also guarantee that Web designers will continue to create sites for a growing multitude of different browsers, each one with its own capabilities and quirks.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

E-mail comments or queries to Jason Cranford Teague at indy_webdesign@mind.com

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colourful

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From: hamish@talk21.com

Subject: greetings from Athens

The
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INTERVIEW BY
JENNIFER ROUGER

1998

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Design in 1999?
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BYTES ANDY OLDFIELD



LARRY ELLISON, chief executive officer of Oracle, the world's largest database software company, and owner and skipper of the US yacht Sayonara, said that it was only the skill of his 23-man crew that kept his yacht intact in last week's Sydney-Hobart race. Ellison's yacht won the 630 nautical mile race after leading from almost the start, but up to six sailors, including British Olympic sailor Glyn Charles, died in 70-plus knot gales and 20ft waves.

"Things got extremely dangerous," Ellison said. "Guys were knocked down time and time again and kept getting up and kept getting back to work to keep the boat in one piece and keep all of us alive."

"There were winds of 90 miles an hour, and huge seas sweeping the deck. The wind made sounds I have never heard before," Ellison said. "We were learning of people dying. I saw a couple of guys pretty choked up and this is a pretty tough crew."

Race organisers said a full inquiry would be held into the world's worst yachting disaster since the Fastnet race in 1979, in which 15 sailors died. Ellison, who had promised to join Ted Turner in this year's Fastnet, said he didn't know whether he would go ocean-racing again. "It will take a little time to place this in perspective," he said. "Ted did the Fastnet in '79. I want to talk to him about that. He didn't race much after that. Right now I'm not anxious to go back and do another ocean race."

"This is not what this [ocean racing] is supposed to be about — difficult yes, dangerous no, dying and life threatening, definitely not."

INTEL CONTINUED its price war with AMD and other chip manufacturers by making unscheduled, unannounced price cuts of up to 30 per cent on its Celeron processors last week and rolling out a cheaper version this week. Price cuts on the Pentium II family are expected to follow.

AMD's K6-2 chips, typically priced between 15-25 per cent less than similarly powered Intel devices, have made significant inroads into Intel's market.

particularity in the well-specified \$500 entry-level range of systems. One advantage AMD has had is lower production costs because its chips plug into cheaper motherboards based on the open standard socket seven. Intel's Celeron has required more expensive packaging for the proprietary "Slot 1" architecture designed for the Pentium II range.

The new, lower-price Celerons, running at 366MHz and 400MHz, take advantage of lower chip packaging costs associated with using a new "370 Pin Socket" design which is cheaper to manufacture than Slot 1. The new design will also fit Intel's Micro ATX motherboard, which will be used in "micro-tower" systems. The smaller system boxes, which fit

more easily on to typical desktops, are around six inches shorter than standard mini-tower units.

AOL, THE biggest Internet service provider (ISP) in the world, reached a landmark 15 million members in its home country last month — an increase of one million over the previous month. Christmas day saw the most new members signing up in a single day in the online giant's history.

According to research carried out by ZD Market Intelligence, by November AOL (excluding its CompuServe subsidiary) served one million more home users than all the US local ISPs combined. At the beginning of the year, AOL had eight million members compared with 12 million for local ISPs. Among business users AOL also outperformed local ISPs with a 32 per cent share against 29.9.

MICROSOFT HAS filed suits in Texas seeking temporary and permanent injunctions against two companies it says are infringing its trademarks. TexasRGV.com and

Trademarkdomains.com are accused of "cyber-squatting", registering well-known company domains and attempting to sell them on to the companies. Microsoft's complaint listed 10 disputed domains with names such as microsoftkids.com, windowsfiles.com and microsoftoffice.com.

"Microsoft is one of the most well-known and admired companies in the world. No one, on the Internet or off, should be permitted to benefit from using Microsoft's trademarks to mislead the public," Steve Aeschbacher, a Microsoft attorney, said. "That type of behaviour is not permitted under the law. Trademarks are vital pieces of intellectual property and are critical to the clear communication of information to individual consumers, businesses and others regarding a product's source, quality and compatibility."

TWO HACKERS were sentenced to death by a court in Jiangsu province in eastern China, according to the official newspaper there last week, after being found guilty of breaking into a bank computer network and stealing 260,000 yuan. The court also confiscated 40,000 yuan from Hao Jinglong, formerly an accountant at the Zhenjiang branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, and his brother Hao Jingwen. The pair opened 16 accounts under various

names in a branch of the bank in September and later broke into the branch to install a device in a computer terminal which they used to move 720,000 yuan into their accounts.

Meanwhile, in Beijing, Chairman Mao's Little Red Book was updated to celebrate the 105th anniversary of his birth last Saturday. The CD-Rom version of the Communist leader's sayings contains more than 3,000 pictures and 120 film and television clips as well as 20 volumes of political thought.

JAPANESE POLICE said that a Japanese language Web-based suicide service has led to at least one death in Tokyo and seven deliveries of potassium cyanide capsules. The Web site gave advice to those "who do not know how to obtain the right drug", according to Reuters, and offered a lethal dose of cyanide for delivery by parcel post at a cost of 30,000-50,000 yen.

Police say the service came to light last month after a 24-year-old woman died from cyanide poisoning in hospital. They also said that a 27-year-old licensed pharmacist, believed to operate the service based in Sapporo, had killed himself after learning of the woman's death. The names of six other customers were discovered. One had attempted suicide by another means. Three had not taken the cyanide delivered to them. Two remained untraceable.

REVIEW

Don't lose sight of the human touch

Masters of the
Wired World
Edited by Anne Leer
Pitman Publishing
£18.99

THIS BOOK has a contents list that runs like the cast of an IT blockbuster. *Masters of the Wired World*, in which all bar the editor, Anne Leer, and one contributor are masters, is a collection of essays taking the reader on a journey into the meaning and potential of the global information society. En route you bump into such luminaries as Vice-President Al Gore, Arthur C. Clarke, Jim Barksdale, Sir David Puttnam, Peter Mandelson (this book was on the printing press before his light was extinguished) and Charles Handy.

Topping it all is Tony Blair. His introduction makes clear that the book is about business, and the change which the dig-

ital economy brings. "We do not know exactly where it will take us or how quickly, but we do know that change will come." But the commercial intent does not narrow the interests that the book pursues.

One of the most memorable images comes from Arthur C. Clarke. He compares the person who rushes to the Internet seeking knowledge with the person who rushes to Niagara Falls to quench his or her thirst: they will be drowned. Clarke's warning is mirrored in the scale of the revolution that Gore anticipates, so much so that he calls for a Digital Declaration of Independence to safeguard the values of democratic societies in a world in

which information can work for good and ill.

Leer's method is to try and see behind the hype. She seeks to engage in the painstaking task of mapping the real wired world, not the imaginary one confused by its own myth and flights of fancy. Only in this way will the means of navigating it be found. In this, she is supported by Netscape's Barksdale, who argues that it is more important, though more difficult, to grow networks rather

than merely pile on the power of the computer. He prefers Metcalfe's law to Moore's.

The book also tries to identify and promote the human value in the digital revolution. Sir David Puttnam's thoughts add a particular caution. When it comes to digital content in the age of entertainment, he fears that the US will dominate. He worries over a cultural time bomb that could blind people to the subtleties of real artistry in the 21st century.

Until his recent demise, Peter Mandelson was rapidly developing a reputation for being right about the strategic importance of leading in the digital economy. Here he talks about the possibilities for a

digital government with no less enthusiasm and places himself clearly on the American side of the regulation debate. No doubt his opinion will continue to carry weight, and his successors could do worse than listen to his warnings: technology has tripped up governments repeatedly in the past.

This book manages to touch hard issues as well as generate lots of excitement. The contributions do vary, and there is an occasional indulgence in neologisms, which obscure rather than explain. And it ends well with Charles Handy's case for fraternity in the individualism of the Information Age. In fact, he thinks only that will save us.

MARK VERNON

SITES ANDY OLDFIELD

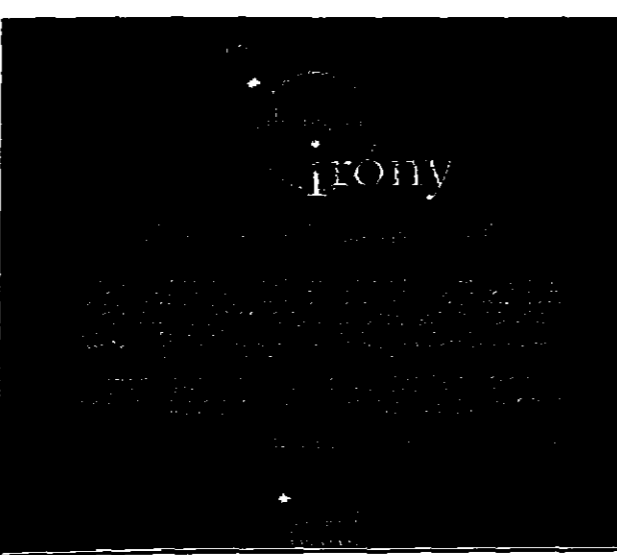
The Ring of Irony
<http://www.satre.demon.co.uk/irony.html>

If you thought that the only expressions of irony on the Internet were those obscure variations on smiley faces called emoticons, think again. The Ring of Irony (ROD) sets out to be a gateway to sites that ply their trades in satire, parody, spoof, black humour and irony.

As well as the offer of a daily dose of e-mail irony, there are links to divers and diverse sites. A random link generator takes you to places you might otherwise not have come across such as "Shallow Thoughts and Deep Doo Doo", the official site of stand-up comedian "Lonesome" Keith Turner, which tries to offend every man, woman, and child on planet Earth — a task which is too big, it seems.

Another ROI site, "Amazing Web Tales", is less ambitious, merely setting out to spoof Gabriel Garcia Marquez with any predictions I have made in the past. I can say with duty that we will see 3.0 browsers, which the middle of the Netscape and Mac-

Shock Of The View
<http://www.walkerart.org/salons/shockoftheview/>
It's all very well digitising the work of a gallery and putting it online, but there's much more to art and museums in cyberspace. This six-month collaboration between the Walker Art Center, the Davis Museum and



Cultural Center, Wellesley College, the San José Museum of Art, the Wexner Center for the Arts, Ohio State University and Rhizome takes a two-pronged line. On one hand are exhibitions on broad themes such as architectural space, complete with online audience response.

On the other approach is an ongoing listserv discussion about the similarities and differences between traditional art and digital work, and what concepts such as the network mean if, or when, it comes to demarcating real and virtual art and museums.

After The Bug
<http://www.sfgate.com/thebug/>
The Dickens publication

around the turn of the millennium and revolves around the curiously named Geronimo Poe, a man employed to check hi-tech toilets for Y2K compliance. If you think that rogue toilets do not appear much in Y2K mythology, you're right — for now.

Even less aired by the scare-mongers is the existence of a secret agency charged with dealing with paranormal fallout from the Y2K bug. Conspiracy theory that's intentionally farcical makes a welcome change. Tune in each week for a new episode to find out how it all unfolds.

Hogmanay.net
<http://www.hogmanay.net/>

Where did you see in the New Year? If you were one of the many thousands who took to the streets of Edinburgh, but find that your memory is slightly blurred after the event, you can drop in here and check out the RealVideo streams for evidence of how much you might have enjoyed, or embarrassed, yourself.

If you worked really hard at the celebrations and still have a hangover, you're advised to follow the link to the hangover page to see if you can find a cure that doesn't make you feel worse than the ailment — or even contribute your own if you can't get a patent on it. You might want to check out the bulletin boards for messages from other survivors.

For the dedicated party animal, this is a site worth bookmarking for next year's bash. Information and general news about Hogmanay Y2K, including tickets for events and accommodation, will be posted throughout 1999. For those who would like to brush up on what it's all about, there are also FAQs about Hogmanay celebrations and resultant headaches worldwide.



The Fantastic Films Of Ray Harryhausen
<http://www3.leba.net/r/odkey/harryhusn.shtml>

A labour of love devoted to the model builder whose puppet animation and special effects brought the mythological to fantastic life in *Jason and the Argonauts*, made a monkey out of Terry Moore and Robert Armstrong in *Mighty Joe Young*, and turned Raquel Welch into a grunting savage in *One Million Years BC*. It's a shrine, image gallery, filmography, biography and more.

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The gay, the sad and the ugly

Kathy Burke says she knows her place when it comes to casting.

And it's not among the beautiful people. By James Rampton

If you thought that Waynetta was a slob, Linda, the character Kathy Burke plays in a new BBC2 sitcom, *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*, is even more gross than the shell-suited, chain-smoking wife of Wayne she inhabits for *Harry Enfield and Chums*. Life for Linda and her gay flatmate Tom (James Dreyfus from *The Thin Blue Line*) is one long sex, drugs and rock'n'roll perma-bender. Done up in a ginger fright-wig and white-rimmed clown glasses, Linda gets so out of it her only way of knowing whether she ended the blinder by sleeping with someone is by sniffing her sheets the morning after.

Refined it is not. But that's the point. We're not talking Noel Coward popping in through the French windows with a tennis racket in one hand and a flute of champagne in the other. With *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*, playwright Jonathan Harvey's (*Beautiful Thing*) first venture into sitcom, we're in the *Bottom* area. The mailroom at *Points of View* must already be laying on extra sacks to accommodate the piles of outraged letters.

For a start, *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme* contains what is Britain's first openly gay lead sitcom character. Tom may be a year behind America's *Ellen*, but he is much more in-your-face. "People are going 'about bloody time'," says Burke. "It's not a question of 'is he?' isn't he?" - he's gay. There are references to 'E' and poppers. Before he goes out, Tom routinely checks his condoms and the next morning he's paranoid because he was on drugs and can't remember what happened to them."

If that doesn't set the green ink flowing, then nothing ever will. Not that Burke is bothered by the prospect. "You can't please all of the people all of the time," she says. "*Harry Enfield and Chums* is very family-orientated, but *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme* isn't for mums and dads. This time I wanted to let

rip a bit more. People will have a false sense of security because I've played adorable characters before. But when we were creating Linda, I said to Jonathan, 'I want to out-dog Waynetta'. It went wrong with Waynetta because too many people liked her. And she had a man in her life. I wanted Linda to be more lonely, one of the real victims of society. She had to be mutton dressed as lamb, ugly and ginger - poor old gingers of the world, there's a lot of comic mileage in them. She's Chris Evans crossed with Olive from *On the Buses*." Help.

It is Linda's very viciousness that makes her believable, according to Burke. "I don't want people to like Linda. There are horrible people in the world. If she was lovable, she'd have a harem of men. But she's on her own because she's nasty. She doesn't just look a mess; she is a mess.

relish it," she continues. "They're always three-dimensional parts. Without meaning to sound anti-men, ghastly women are the closest you get to a male role. It's very rare for women to be able to let go in that way. That's why *Absolutely Fabulous* went down so well. It was so refreshing to see those horrible drunk women."

Burke is commendably open about her greatest asset - a recognisable earthiness that is far removed from the never-never-land beauty myth. She is more suited to grittiness than glamour. (Which is why she was so perfectly cast as the battered wife in Gary Oldman's harrowing film, *Nil By Mouth*, and why the money men's original idea of Patsy Kensit in the role was so wildly off the mark).

Far from being wracked with anxiety about it, Burke is adamant that the way she

'Without meaning to sound anti-men, ghastly women are the closest you get to playing a male role. It's very rare for women to be able to let go in that way'

She's a case for *The Ridiculous Show*. She adds the almost touching revelation: "If I hadn't become an actress, I could have ended up like that. I could see myself sitting there, showing me cellulite and shouting 'he's gone off with my sister'."

Burke really doesn't mind playing gargoyles like Linda, Waynetta or the unfortunate, abused Martha in *Mr Wroe's Virgins* - in fact quite the opposite. "A part like Martha was scabs and all. I must be the only actress in history who has been asked to be naked for untillating reasons. It was as if the producers thought 'we want to make sure people don't get off on this - we'll get Kathy Burke'. Afterwards I thought, 'I'm always cast as the ugly one', but they're better parts at the end of the day.

"I love playing grotesques. I

looks "has helped me because directors know that vanity doesn't come into it. I'm happy to look as terrible as I can. Always being a couple of stone overweight has also been a strength. It means I tend to play people who are normal. I'm not a raving beauty. I've got quite a plain old face, but so have the majority of women.

"I'd be mortified if I thought I had to be the pretty one. When I was younger [she is now 34], I had to play a lot of girlfriends and I couldn't handle it. I once did a BBC Schools thing where I had to show a boyfriend some affection, and I ended up giving him a playful punch which nearly knocked him out."

Like last year's BBC2 sitcom *Sunnyside Farm*, the cartoonish *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme* takes a chainsaw to some politically correct sacred cows.

"My character is thick and homophobic and racist," says Burke. "We didn't want anything precious or PC because it's so dull and it doesn't make good sitcom material. I wanted to make sure Linda and Tom were horrendous. They had to be the kind of grotesques that work well in British sitcoms."

A vein of sadness certainly runs through all the best British sitcoms. "Look at *The Fast Show*. The characters everyone instantly thought were fantastic were Ted and Ralph - all that repression and things not being said. Maybe those sorts of comedy make us feel better about ourselves. *Friends* is well-constructed, but I find it hard to watch because I think their lives are great. They have fantastic apartments, and they all look amazing. The British are best at showing life's sad and lonely characters, people who have not lived the life they thought they were going to live. Take poor old Harold in *Steptoe and Son*. Every time he thought he'd met a woman, it was messed up by his father and by his sense of guilt about leaving him."

Burke's unluvvie-ish candour has not hindered her career. Producers - and, more importantly, audiences - seem to warm to her honesty. She has recently enjoyed success in movies such as *Elizabeth* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*, and has another, *This Year's Love*, coming out next month. She was even ferried to Cannes in Luc Besson's private jet to collect the Best Actress Award for her stunning performance in *Nil By Mouth*.

Despite all this, Burke remains the principal butt of her own gags. "Imagine if I started hanging out with Caprice - my mates wouldn't talk to me again," she says, before reflecting: "All the same, people bitch about her when her back's turned - you can see her back-bone". But, hell, I'd love to see my back-bone at some point."

'Gimme, Gimme, Gimme' begins on 8 January, BBC2



Burke's Peelage: 'I must be the only actress in history who has asked to be naked for untillating reasons.' Above, as Linda, in ginger fright-wig, with James Dreyfus in *Gimme, Gimme, Gimme*

Philip Meech

An everyday story of Malaysian folk

Who can developing countries look to for health education and safe sex advice? The Archers, of course. By Chris Arnott

A STUNNED silence descended on the Ministry of Information's training centre in Phnom Penh after 18 would-be scriptwriters had listened to an episode of Radio Four's *The Archers*. Five of them could follow it in English. The rest had scripts translated into Khmer, the national language of Cambodia but not a natural vehicle for the agricultural cadences of Eddie Grundy or Bert Fry.

This was the episode where Alistair, the vet, confronts Richard, the doctor. Richard has been sleeping with Alistair's girlfriend, the hitherto saintly Shula. In the middle of the emotional turmoil, Richard finds time to take blood from Kate to determine whether or not Roy is the father of her baby. Just an everyday story of country folk in Middle England. But what relevance could it possibly have to this far less comfortable region of South-east Asia?

More than you might think. Kerry Davies, a senior producer on *The Archers*, recently spent two and a half weeks deconstructing Britain's longest-running soap opera for the benefit of Cambodians who want to make their own radio drama.

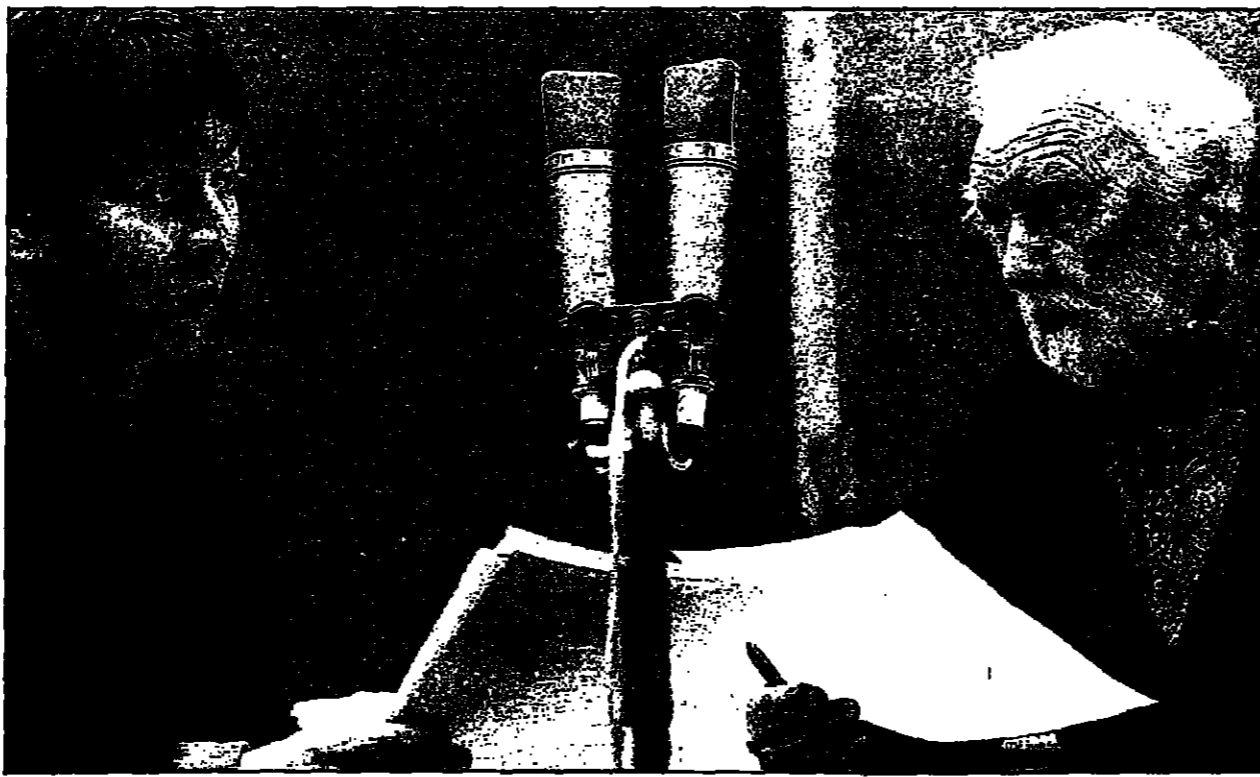
"I had to point out that it's not usual for doctors to go to bed with their patients in my country," he grins. "But this was a good episode to analyse because the structure was superb, and the scene with Kate offered us the chance to show how quick and comparatively painless blood tests are."

He went to Cambodia at the invitation of Health Unlimited, a charity which runs health education projects in developing countries. Radio drama is seen as an ideal medium in a land where its audience reach is far higher than that of television.

But Cambodian listeners are used to stylised, epic fantasies. "The actors tend to burst into song at regular intervals," says Davies, who knew that injecting some realism would be a daunting task.

"There were some health professionals and some short-story writers in the script-writing class, but nobody had written anything of any length. Luckily, they were quick learners."

"After they'd listened to the whole episode, we went through it, bit by bit, to show them how a story was built, how



Graham Seed and Norman Panigrahi as Nigel Pargetter and Phil Archer, recording the universal radio soap

characters were introduced and how you could hook the listener to tune in again."

This is hardly the first time that *The Archers* has been used as a role model for radio soaps in unlikely settings. The BBC studio in Birmingham is regularly visited by health educationalists from around the globe. And a former editor, Liz Rigby, travelled to Russia in 1992 to advise on *Dom Sym* ("House Seven"), a drama set in a Moscow apartment building and designed to convey subliminal messages about the joys of the free market. It boasts a sort of Muscovite Eddie Grundy, a plumber with a taste for vodka, and it's still running daily.

Whether the free-market message is as enthusiastically received as it once was is a matter for conjecture. But Davies has no doubt that radio drama can be an effective vehicle for propaganda. Indeed,

that's how *The Archers* started, back in 1951, seven years before he was born.

The first *Archers* producer, Godfrey Bassey, was expected by the BBC to include a certain amount of information from the Ministry of Agriculture (an obligation which continued until 1972). Today, most press releases from the Ministry join those from other vested interests - in the overflowing waste paper bins.

"We'd run screaming from including something for educational reasons, because our listeners are too sophisticated; they'd see it coming a mile off," says Davies. But he was more than happy to offer his expertise to spread vital information in less developed parts of the world. "Radio drama saves lives," he says with some conviction. He cites as an example *New Home, New Life*, which was devised

by the BBC World Service in the bowels of Bush House, translated into Pashto and Persian and transmitted from Pakistan over the border into Afghanistan. Recent surveys have credited the show with increased awareness of landmines, child immunisation programmes and the correct way to breast-feed without passing on TB. In Cambodia, one child in five dies before its fifth birthday, and Aids is a major problem among the adult population. Up to 40 per cent of prostitutes there are thought to be HIV positive. What's more, condoms are considered to be "unmanly".

To advise on how radio drama could begin to confront such deeply-engrained cultural attitudes, Davies went back to the very roots of *The Archers*.

"Even in the early days," he says, "the farming content was only 10 per cent.

There was another 15 per cent on countryside stuff - 'oh, look, the catkins are out' - but the rest was drama, romance and comedy to keep people listening."

Whether it's farming information in Britain or health education in Cambodia, the same principle applies, he says. "You can use propaganda only as a small proportion of the programme. Otherwise it's not drama at all, just a washing-line with messages pegged up."

For archetypal characters, too, Davies went back to the laws of Godfrey. "Bassey's original model was built around the father and mother figures (Dan and Doris), the young lovers (Phil and Grace, then Jill), a comic character (Walter Gabriel) and the irritant (Peggy's first husband, Jack Archer). The gossip, the ne'er-do-well, and friends of the young lovers were subsidiary."

Alas, there is no Cambodian equivalent of *The Bull or The Cat and Fiddle* in Ambridge. Davies's initial advice, that the characters should gather in a bar, were met with sceptical looks from his hosts. "Bars in their country have sexual connotations," he says. "So we decided on a market, as in EastEnders, where characters gather, gossip is exchanged and the plot can be advanced. There's also a restaurant, run by a friend of the lovers."

In one of the storylines Davies has suggested, the restaurateur gives some man-to-man advice to the comic character, who has a sexually-transmitted disease. "It's only a small part of the plot," he says, "but it shows that medical advice doesn't have to be a lecture from your doctor. Here, it's one young bloke prodding another in the chest and saying 'Look, mate, if you're going to sleep around, be careful'."

The setting is Poi Pet, a small town near the Thailand border with a reputation for drug smuggling. Borchester it ain't. But if Davies's suggestions are accepted, *Poi Pet In My Heart* will start broadcasting in March. A 10-minute drama will be slotted into a half-hour programme for the 15-to-24 age group, broadcast twice a week.

And if it runs for anywhere near as long as *The Archers*, it could save more than a few lives.

THIS WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Today On this day in 1936, *The Billboard* of New York published the first chart based on record sales. Charts, to be precise: the top 10 of three companies were listed separately, giving three different Number Ones.

Tomorrow Alexander Dumas fought his first duel in 1925, which was rather different from fights in his *Three Musketeer* novels and the films: his trousers fell down.

Wednesday The Sex Pistols were sacked by EMI in 1977 after their "foul-mouthed" TV interview. In fairness, the punks didn't swear all the time: only when they opened their mouths.

Thursday In 1894 Fred Ott's *Sneeze* became the first film to be copyrighted; it included the earliest close-up of, naturally, Fred Ott sneezing. Charles Addams was born in 1912 and rapidly gravitated towards graveyards, via *The Addams Family* cartoon, TV series and films.

Friday England's earliest known cartoon appeared in *Bell's New Weekly Messenger* in 1832. In it, the Duke of Wellington moans "O fie fie" at the idea of creating new peers to push the Reform Bill through a House of Lords which was digging its heels in (no change there, then).

Saturday Czech playwright Karel Capek was born in 1890; the word "robot" derives from his play *R.U.R.*, which stands for "Rossum's Universal Robots".

Sunday This is the 50th anniversary of the 45rpm extended-play record, launched by RCA in 1949. In 1888 a patent was granted for the first single-lens movie camera. It, with inventor Louis le Prince, later disappeared mysteriously from the Dijon-Paris train. In a further Hitchcock-style twist of the plot, his son, who tried to have Louis credited as the true originator of motion pictures, was found dead in a Long Island wood. (Cue sinister music.)

JONATHAN SALE

NEW FILMS

THE ACID HOUSE (18)

Director: Paul McGuigan
Starring: Stephen McCole, Kevin McKidd, Ewen Bremner

A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh, *The Acid House* plays out in the down-and-dirty landscape of some of Edinburgh's less salubrious areas and darts with brio between a range of moods and tones. Story number one, "The Granton Star Cause", is a playful riff on Kafka's *Metamorphosis* as layabout wastrel Boah (McCole) gets conjured into a fly by the vengeful, boozing God (Maurice Roëves) whom he meets down the pub.

Story two, "A Soft Touch", comes on as a kind of social-realist Special Brew opera, as its affable, emasculated hero (the brilliant Kevin McKidd) finds himself cheated on by his missus and menaced by the tattooed thug who lives upstairs. Story three, "The Acid House", is both the most ambitious and the least coherent, an indiscriminate what-if scenario which has Ewen Bremner's rave kid switching places with a newborn bairn. In it, the revelations of an acid-trip are cross-cut to the trauma of birth, yet a clever conceit stays unfulfilled, buried under a ton of showy hallucinogenics. Overall, though, debut director Paul McGuigan (who trained as a stills photographer) turns *The Acid House* into a film that's less polished and populist than *Trainspotting*, but more earthy, edgy and intense, too. A cracker, all told.

West End: Gale Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)

Director: François Ozon
Starring: Evelyne Dandry, François Marthouret, Marina de Van
Someone ought to introduce François Ozon to a good editor. The debuting French film-maker is

clearly a man of talent, but in *Sitcom* he lets his ideas maraud madly off the leash. This scatter-gun satire on middle-class mores takes abundant pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family (mère, père, fils et fille) - setting a rat loose in the home and interjecting an implicitly queer and subversive vein to the increasingly fraught shenanigans. The result is sharp, funny and savage one moment, over-heated and indulgent the next, and arrives heavily touched by the influence of Luis Buñuel and John Waters. Ozon's still, formal framing strikes a nice balance with the craziness contained inside.

West End: Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho, Virgin Chelsea

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)

Director: Jonathan Frakes
Starring: Patrick Stewart
A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags, ribboned and bowed with reliably cheesy art-design and effects work, and wrapped up in rather more cornball romance than we're used to.

The yarn is nominally about Patrick Stewart's do-gooding captain tangling with villainous F Murray Abraham, who has hatched a scheme to take over an Eden-like planet of perpetual youth. The trouble is that the whole *Star Trek* phenomenon has become less a story now than a series of self-reflective gestures. *Insurrection* takes no real risks with the format; it simply navel-gazes for a while, gives floorpace to the regulars and idles its way along to the climactic explosion.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

ANTZ (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Rio Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (18) (PG)

Seventeen-year-old Samira Makhmalbaf's precocious debut stages a true-life recreation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is the luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

The follow-up to *Babe* tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of assorted waifs. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak anatomical fairy tale. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)

Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in deepest Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. West End: Curzon Mayfair

ELIZABETH (15)

Shekhar Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of another female figurehead - this time it's Queen Elizabeth I - struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But Kapur largely neglects the abundant opportunities for fun in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. West End: ABC Panton Street, Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Mezzanine, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse, to probe a political cover-up and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller with a top-drawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This gaudy swashbuckler gallops at full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. A bite-sized history lesson on West Coast politics jostles for purchase amid a lot of colourful duels and clattering action set-pieces. West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG)

Peter Chelsom's *The Mighty* treads through familiar coming-of-age country with its tale of two outcast kids (one fat, the other sickly) in a storybook Cincinnati. It's all a bit stolid and a tad predictable, though there's a glimmer of soul showing through. Sharon Stone and *The X-Files*' Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. West End: Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L. Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in Gray's thrilling drama. The script has a predilection for lunk-headed swearing which sounds uneasy in the mouths of such articulate performers. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.
West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Phoenix Cinema, Rio Cinema, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

The *Parent Trap* catches Disney cannibalising its own back catalogue, re-heating its 1961 Hayley Mills heart-warmer as this a spy, cross-cultural caper starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to get their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid) back together. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)

With Hollywood awash with dumb re-makes, the news that Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* was to be rebashed did not bode well. But this is not bad at all. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who blackmails an artist into killing his mistress wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. West End: Warner Village West End

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (U)

Sublime cinema. It's a fast-talking romantic comedy of course, but there's nothing silly or trivial about it. George Cukor's movie has a strange and melancholy heart and Katharine Hepburn's unashamedly sheds real tears. West End: Curzon Mayfair, Renoir

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RONIN (15)

Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. Thrill-an-hour stuff. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, Virgin Trocadero

RUSH HOUR (15)

Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)

Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in the latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly (previous repulsive but shamefully funny crimes against humanity: *Dumb and Dumber* and *Kingpin*). The film is basically a soft-centred romantic comedy of the kind which drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. The gags never amount to more than vulgar icing on an unexceptionally bland cake. West End: ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)

Along comes Christmas and out comes *What Dreams May Come*. Robin Williams perfects a lopsided simper as the dead chap who lights out to a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Truman Show (15)

Peter Weir's ingenious and unsettling fantasy is, in the end, an escape movie - in the case of Jim Carrey's Truman Burbank (right), it is breaking out of the round-the-clock TV docu-soap that is his own life.



Out of Sight (15)

This tale of love on opposite sides of the law from director Steven Soderbergh manages to knock spots off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

Antz (PG)

Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast and starring Woody Allen as a worker ant who becomes an unlikely opponent of the colony's totalitarian regime. Allen's best work in a while.

My Name is Joe (15)

All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scary, intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

The Dream Life of Angels (18)

Erick Zanca's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Elodie Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Reginier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Mr Puntilla and His Man Matti

Albery Theatre
A well-deserved transfer for this Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's witty fable about a split-personality landowner. To 9 Jan

Love Upon the Throne

Comedy Theatre
The Charles and Diana story (well, up to the divorce) presented by the National Theatre of Brent. Hilarious and oddly touching. To 31 Jan

Martin Guerre West Yorkshire

Playhouse, Leeds
It's third time lucky for this much rewritten Boublil/Schönberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it finally emerges as a tighter magnificent show. To 13 Feb

Angela Carter

Cinderella
Lyric.
Hammersmith
This feast of inspired seasonal silliness and visual magic (right) by Angela Carter has lashings of drag and double entendres, plus the best music to be found anywhere on a West End stage. To 9 Jan



A Month in the Country

Swan Theatre, Stratford
Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel adapts Turgenev's proto-Chekhovian comedy. To 20 Feb

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon

Royal Academy
"Life." Or Theatre? Salomon's life in pictures. 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic opera in three colours. To 10 Jan

Grimling Gibbons

Victoria & Albert Museum

Fruit, flowers and foliage - the best chisel-work (right) of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricate and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan



Chris Orill Whitworth Gallery, Manchester

This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, eyes, Afros and black icons, and incorporating mutant balls of elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Goya: The Disparates Maldstone

Museum & Art Gallery
Goya was deaf, ill and in his seventies when he produced his last series of etchings. Mysterious in intention, it is a world where life is folly, men fly off on wings into darkness. To 23 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones Birmingham

Museum & Art Gallery
Centenary exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world. To 17 Jan

TOM LUBBOCK

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET

(0870-902 0418) • Baker Street
The Price of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.05pm, 8.35pm

ABC PANTON STREET

(0870-902 0404) • Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) • Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE

(0870-902 0402) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0870-902 0403) • Leicester Square
Squid Piccadilly Circus 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Governors 1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm
It's a Wonderful Life 1.05pm, 6.05pm
La Vie Revele des Anges 1.15pm, 3.35pm, 5.55pm, 8.15pm

ABC TOTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0870-902 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
Antz 4.45pm, 9.45pm
Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm
The Price of Egypt 2pm, 7.55pm, 9.55pm
Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN

(0171-638 8891) • Barbican The
Mighty 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Sticcom 3pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHITSEA CINEMA

(0171-351 3742) • Sloane Square
On Connaught in Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.35pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE

(0171-498 3323) • Clapham Common
Enemy of the State 6.20pm, 9pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.15pm, 4pm
The Parent Trap 3.45pm, 6.15pm
The Price of Egypt 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm
What Dreams May Come 6.45pm, 8.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR

(0171-369 1720) • Green Park
Dancing at Lughnassa 4.15pm, 9pm
The Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

CURZON SOHO

(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) • Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road
Casablanca 1.45pm, 6.45pm
Elizabeth 4pm, 9pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
Cut of the Sky 1.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.15pm
My Name is Joe 3pm, 9.15pm
Sticcom 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET

(0171-703 4968) • Elephant & Castle
The Price of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) • Leicester Square
Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
The Price of Egypt 10.45am, 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 11pm, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) • Notting Hill
Gate The Acid House 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN

(0870-907 0718) • Ravenscourt Park/Hammersmith
Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm
The Price of Egypt 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.20pm, 6.30pm
Rush Hour 8.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ICA CINEMA

(0171-930 3647) • Charing Cross
Sex/Life in LA 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

METRO

(0171-734 1506) • Piccadilly Circus/Leicester Square
The Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm
On Connaught in Chanson 3.45pm, 8.35pm
The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm

CURZON MINIMA

(0171-369 1723) • Hyde Park Corner
Elizabeth 2.20pm, 6.40pm
Fire 4.35pm, 9pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET

(0171-727 6705) • Notting Hill
Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN

(0870-050007) • Camden Town
The Acid House 11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm
Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 2.25pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 8.35pm
The Price of Egypt 11.45am, 1.55pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 12.15pm, 2.25pm, 4.35pm, 6.45pm, 9.10pm
What Dreams May Come 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

ODEON HAYMARKET

(0870-050007) • Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON

(0870-050007) • High Street
Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm
Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm
Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm
The Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm
Rush Hour 9.50pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm
What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE

(0870-050007) • Leicester Square
The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH

(0870-050007) • Marble Arch
Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm, 9.05pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.45pm, 2.50pm, 5.55pm, 9.05pm
The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm
The Price of Egypt 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm
Rush Hour 9pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.55pm
What Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.50pm

ODEON MEZZANINE

(0870-050007) • Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
Las Miserables 3.30pm, 8.30pm
Mulan 1.40pm, 3.30pm, 5.55pm, 8.25pm
Snake Eyes 1.05pm, 6pm
There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

(0870-050007) • Swiss Cottage
Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm
Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.25pm, 5.40pm, 8.55pm
Out of Sight 6.20pm, 9.20pm
The Parent Trap 12.50pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.55pm
Rush Hour 9.50pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2pm, 4.35pm, 7.10pm, 9.45pm
What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm

AMPSTEAD (0870-9020413) • Belsize Park
ABC (0870-9020413) • Belsize Park
Enemy of the State 2.20pm
The Price of Egypt 1.25pm
3.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection
3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm What
Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

HARROW (0181-426 0303) • Harrow
on the Hill/Harrow & Wealdstone
Rakha 1.30pm, 5pm, 8.45pm The
Soldier (Asian Film) 1.30pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) •
Harrow on the Hill Antz 1.50pm, 5.50pm,
7.50pm, 9.50pm The Price of Egypt
10.50pm, 1.05pm, 3.30pm Enemy of
the State 2.20pm, 10.20pm,
12.20pm, 12.55pm, 3pm, 5.00pm,
6pm, 6.40pm, 9pm, 9.25pm The
Mask of Zorro 11.25am, 2.25pm,
5.25pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap
10am, 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 6.55pm
The Price of Egypt 1.25pm,
11.50am, 2.05pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm,
9.15pm Rush Hour 9.30am, 12noon,
2.15pm, 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.35pm,
10pm Small Soldiers 11am Star Trek:
Insurrection 10.40am, 1.15pm,
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm What
Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.05pm

HOLLOWAY (08705 050007) • Archway
Antz 12.10pm Babe: Pig in the City
12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.20pm,
2.20pm, 2.45pm, 5.10pm,
5.35pm, 8pm, 8.35pm The Mask of
Zorro 2.05pm, 5.10pm, 8.25pm, 10.50pm
Of Sight 5.50pm, 8.35pm The
Parent Trap 12.25pm, 3.05pm The
Price of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm,
4.35pm, 6.50pm Rush Hour
3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm, 9.05pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.5pm,
3.45pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm What
Dreams May Come 12.40pm,
3.05pm, 5.45pm, 8.50pm

ILFORD (08705 050007) • Gants Hill
Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm
Enemy of the State 12.20pm,
2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm The Mask
of Zorro 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm
The Price of Egypt 1.50pm, 4.10pm
Rush Hour 6.20pm, 8.40pm Star
Trek: Insurrection 1.5pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.50pm What Dreams
May Come 5.50pm, 8.30pm

KILBURN (0171-328 1000) • Kilburn
Enemy of the State 8.20pm, 8.55pm

KINGSTON UPON THAMES (0870-9020403) • BR:
Kingston Babes: Pig in the City
12.15pm Enemy of the State
5.15pm, 8.05pm The Parent Trap
2.20pm The Price of Egypt 1.15pm,
3.30pm Star Trek: Insurrection
1.15pm, 4.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL (08705 050007) • Highgate
Enemy of the State 2.50pm,
5.45pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro
5.15pm, 8.15pm The Parent Trap
12.15pm The Price of Egypt
12.50pm, 3pm Star Trek: Insurrection
11.40am, 1.50pm, 4.15pm,
6.35pm, 8.50pm

PECKHAM (0181-235 3006) • BR:
Peckham Rye Antz 1.50pm
Babe: Pig in the City 12noon
Enemy of the State 12.20pm,
6.05pm, 8.50pm, 11.35pm (Fri)
The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm, 6.15pm,
9pm The Mighty 1.55pm, 4.10pm,
6.20pm, 8.30pm The Parent Trap
11.45am, 2.10pm The Price of
Egypt 2.35pm Rush Hour 2.45pm,
5pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 4.40pm, 7.05pm, 9.20pm
What Dreams May Come 4.35pm,
7pm, 9.25pm

PURLEY (0870-9020407) • BR:
Purley Babes: Pig in the City 12.05pm
Enemy of the State 5.55pm, 8.45pm
The Parent Trap 2.20pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 1.15pm, 8.20pm
6.20pm, 8.30pm What Dreams
May Come 5.50pm, 8.20pm

PUTNEY (0870 9020401) • Putney
ABC: Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm
Enemy of the State 5.15pm,
8.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm,
6pm, 8.30pm What Dreams
May Come 5.45pm, 8.25pm

RICHMOND (08705 050007) • BR/•
Richmond Enemy of the State
12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm Star
Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.05pm, 9.30pm

ROEON STUDIO (08705 050007) • BR/•
Richmond Antz 1.30pm, 3pm,
5pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm
Out of Sight 6.30pm, 9.20pm The
Parent Trap 1.10pm, 3.50pm,
6.20pm The Price of Egypt 1.20pm,
4.20pm Rush Hour 5pm, 7.20pm,
9.40pm What Dreams May Come
3.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm

ROMFORD (0870-9020419) • BR: Romford
Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm
Enemy of the State 5.20pm, 8.10pm
The Parent Trap 2.40pm The Price
of Egypt 12.50pm, 3.05pm, 5.35pm,
8.20pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.45pm,
6.10pm, 8.35pm What Dreams
May Come 5.40pm, 8.20pm

ROEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) • BR:
Romford Antz 12noon
Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm,
2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm Enemy
of the State 12.50pm, 2.45pm,
5.30pm, 8.15pm The Mask of Zorro
2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm The
Mighty 9pm Mulan 12.30pm Out
of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap
12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm The
Price of Egypt 1.45pm, 4pm,
6.15pm, 8.30pm Rush Hour
2.15pm, 5.20pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm
Small Soldiers 12.10pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm,
8.50pm What Dreams May Come
1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

SIDCUP (0541-555131) • BR: Sidcup
Babe: Pig in the City 1.15pm The
Price of Egypt 1pm, 3.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.30pm,
6pm, 8.40pm What Dreams May
Come 5.45pm, 8.30pm

STAPLES CORNER (0870-9020417) • BR:
Cricklewood Enemy of the State
12.15pm, 3.15pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm,
6pm, 9pm The Mighty 8.30pm
The Price of Egypt 1.40pm, 4.30pm,
6.30pm, 9.30pm Rush Hour 3pm,
6.40pm, 9.15pm Star Trek: Insurrection
1.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.30pm,
9pm What Dreams May Come
5.45pm, 8.30pm

STREATHAM (0870-9020415) • BR:
Streatham Hill Antz 1.50pm
Babe: Pig in the City 1.45pm The
Mighty 4.20pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm
The Price of Egypt 1.40pm,
3.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection
3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm What
Dreams May Come 6pm, 8.30pm

ODEON (08705 050007) • BR:
Streatham Hill/Brickton/Clapham
Common Babe: Pig in the City
1.10pm Blade 8.40pm Enemy of
the State 12.10pm, 2.55pm,
5.40pm, 8.25pm The Mask of Zorro
12.20pm, 3pm The Price of Egypt
12.15pm, 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.35pm
Rush Hour 3.30pm, 5.50pm,
8.30pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm

STRATFORD PICTURE (0181-555 3366) • BR/•
Stratford East Babe: Pig in the City
1.45pm The Mask of Zorro
12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.35pm
The Parent Trap 12.40pm The
Price of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm,
4.30pm, 6.45pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9.10pm
What Dreams May Come 9pm

SURREY QUAYS (0990 888990) • Surrey
Quays Babe: Pig in the City
3.20pm Enemy of the State
3.40pm, 6pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm,
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm The
Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.10pm,
6.10pm, 9.20pm Mulan
10.20am The Negotiator 10pm Out
of Sight 8.40pm The Parent Trap
3pm, 5.50pm The Price of Egypt
3.5pm, 5pm, 7.30pm Rush Hour
7.50pm, 9.50pm Star Trek:
Insurrection 3.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
7pm, 9pm, 9.30pm What Dreams
May Come 3.40pm, 6.20pm,
9.10pm

TURNPIKE LANE (0181-888 2519) •
Turnpike Lane. Enemy of the
State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm The
Price of Egypt 4.10pm, 6.30pm,
8.35pm

UXBRIDGE (08705 050007) •
Uxbridge De Doltze 11.40am
Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.20pm,
8.15pm The Price of Egypt
12noon Star Trek: Insurrection
1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW (0870-9020424) • Waltham-
stow Central Babe: Pig in the City
12.45pm Enemy of the State
5.20pm, 8pm The Parent Trap
2.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection
1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm
What Dreams May Come 5.55pm,
8.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES (01932-
252825) • BR: Walton on Thames
Enemy of the State 5.25pm,
8.10pm The Parent Trap 2.35pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4.15pm,
6.30pm, 8.45pm

WELL HALL (0181-850 3351) • BR:
Eltham The Price of Egypt
4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.35pm

WIMBLEDON (08705 050007) • BR/•
Wimbledon/• South Wimbledon
Antz 1.30pm Babe: Pig in the City
1.45pm Enemy of the State
11.45am, 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 5pm,
8.10pm The Parent Trap 1.20pm,
3.55pm Rush Hour 6.30pm,
8.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection
12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm
What Dreams May Come 6pm,
8.35pm

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON (0171-928 3232) •
NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928
3232) Saving Private Ryan (15)
2pm The Last of the Mohicans (12)
6.10pm My Song For You: The
Creative Journey... (NC) 6.15pm
Henry and June (18) 8.20pm
There's Something About Mary (15)
8.40pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) The Spanish
Prisoner (PG) 1pm Still Crazy (15)
3.30pm Le Bossu (15) 6.15pm
The People vs Larry Flynt (18)
9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road
W6 (0171-420 0100) Moe vs. En
Rosa (12) 6.45pm + Pannette
8.35pm

BRIGHTON (01273-602503) •
DUKE OF YORKS (1273-602503)
Henry Ford (18) 1.30pm, 6.30pm
My Name Is Joe (15) 4.15pm,
9.15pm

BRISTOL (0117-925 3845) •
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) On
Connatix in Chanson (PG) 5.45pm,
8.20pm The Land Girls (12) 6pm,
8.30pm

CAMBRIDGE (01223-504444) •
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
My Name Is Joe (15) 12.30pm,
7.15pm The End (18) 3pm, 9.20pm
The Truman Show (PG) 5.10pm

CARDIFF (01222-399666) •
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (1222-
399666) Pappé Le Moko (15)
7.30pm Year of the Horse (15) 8pm

CHESTER (01243-786650) •
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (1243-
786650) The Knowledge of Healing
(PG) 2pm Still Crazy (15)
4.15pm

ALDERSHOT (01252-303555) •
Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy
of the State (S); The Mask of Zor-
ro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG);
The Price of Egypt (U); Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG); What Dreams
May Come (15)

CARDIFF (0541-555178) • Antz (PG);
Babe: Pig in the City (U); Blade
(18); The Price of Egypt (U); Rush
Hour (15)

CAPITOL ODEON (08705-050007) •
Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy
of the State (S); The Mask of Zor-
ro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG);
The Price of Egypt (U); Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG); What Dreams
May Come (15)

ODEON (08705-050007) • Antz (PG);
Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy
of the State (S); The Mask of Zor-
ro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG);
The Price of Egypt (U); Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG); What Dreams
May Come (15)

ODEON (08705-050007) • Antz (PG);
Babe: Pig in the City (U); Enemy
of the State (S); The Mask of Zor-
ro (PG); The Parent Trap (PG);
The Price of Egypt (U); Star Trek:
Insurrection (PG); What Dreams
May Come (15)

THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-
day, times and prices for the week:
running times include intervals. •
— Seats at all prices • — Seats at
some prices • — Returns only Mat-
inees — [1]: Sun, [3]: Tue, [4]: Wed,
[5]: Thur, [6]: Fri, [7]: Sat

ALARMIS AND EXCURSIONS Michael
Frayn's new comedy about a
dinner party which is interrupted
by mysterious messages stars Felicity
Kendall and Josie Lawrence.
Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5065) • Pic: Circ. Mon-
Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-
£27.50, 130 mins.

ANNADEUS David Suchet stars
as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's
acclaimed drama. Old Vic The Cus-
set (0171-928 7616/400 0000) •
BR/• Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, £7.50-£30,
180 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish
family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy
tale. Dominion Tottenham Court
Road, W1 (0171-658 1888) • Pic: Circ.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, £18.50-
£35, 150 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-
sell's long-running Liverpool musical
melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1735)
• Pic: Softbox. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
7.45pm, [5] 3.00pm, [7] 4.00pm,
£11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie
stars in a brand new 1970s musical.
Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836
8888/0171-836 0479) • Charing
X/Embankment. Mon-Thurs 8pm,
Fri-Sat 8.30pm, [6] 5.30pm, [7]
5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£26.50,
150 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical
version of T.S. Eliot's New York
London Park Street, WC2 (0171-
405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079)
• Pic: Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-
£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and
Peter Davidson star in this Broadway
musical about two murderous
women and their nightclub. Adelphi
Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344
0055) • Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm,
[4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking
fee), 130 mins.

FLAME THE MUSICAL High-octane
stage version of the TV series
charting the highs and lows of a class
of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of
Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-
839 5972) • Pic: Softbox. Mon-Thurs
8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, ends 16
Jan, £15-£30.

FILUMENA Judi Dench and
Michael Pennington star in Timber-
lake Wertenbaker's new translation
of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-
cadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-
369 1734) • Pic: Circ. Mon-Sat
7.30pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£20,
120 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version
of the hit film about life in an Amer-
ican high school. Cambridge Earham
Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) •
Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4][7] 3.00pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christopher
Cazenove and Susannah York
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production
of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-437 8181) •
Pic: Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4]
3pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£29.50,
165 mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-
tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494
5085) • Pic: Softbox. Mon-Fri 7.45pm,
Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7]
5.00pm, £10.50-£25, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim
and Lapine's acclaimed musical
based on the classic story of fairytales.
Donmar Warehouse Earham Street,
WC2 (0171-369 1732) • Covent
Garden. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7]
2.30pm, £15-£27.50.

LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasty
look at the Charles and Diana
marriage. Comedy Pantom
Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) •
Pic: Circ/Lic. Sat, Mon-Sat 8pm,
[4][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £7.50-£25,
9.15pm

LES MISERABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-
terpiece. Palace Theatre, Avenue
W1 (0171-434 0909) • Pic: Circ.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm,
£7-£35, 195 mins.

MISS SAIGON Musical which re-
tells the Madame Butterfly tragedy to
Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury
Lane Shaftesbury Street, WC2 (0171-
369 1732) • Covent Garden.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm,
£5.75-£35, 165 mins.

THE MOUTHRAP Agatha
Christie's whodunnit about a doctor
running St. Martin's West Street,
WC2 (0171-836 1443) • Pic: Circ.
Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm,
[7] 5.00pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

MR FURTEL AND HIS MAN Matt
McColl star in a new version of
Brecht's comedy satire. Albany
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369
1730) • Pic: Circ. Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan, £5-
£22.50.

THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Hay-
market, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc
0171-344 4444) • Pic: Circ. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-
£35, 150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-
hème and set in a New York gay
New York Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2
(07000-211221) • Pic: Circ. Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £10-
£35, 150 mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE
OLIVER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's
music accompanies the tale of the
Boy Who Would Not Grow Up
with Michael Bryant as the Story-
teller. In rep tonight 7.15pm, ends
20 Feb.

LYTTELTON: Beatrix Potter's
defining work depicts a mouse and
stars Inogen Stubbs and
Douglas Hodge. In rep tonight
7.30pm, ends 4 Apr. 90 mins.

COTTESLOE: Haroun And The
Sea Of Stories Tim Supple's stage
adaptation of Salman Rushdie's
acclaimed novel. Lyttelton
7.30pm, ends 6 Jan. Oliver &
Lyttelton: £8-£27, Cottesloe: £12-
£18, NT2000: £4, concs £3. Day
seats from 10am, South Bank,
SE1 (0171-452 30001).
BR/• Waterloo.

CHIPPING NORTON CHIPPING NORTON
CHIPPING NORTON Theatre Al
Baba and the 40 Thieves Pantom
from the Arabian Nights. Today
5pm & 7.45pm, ends 16 Jan. £7.75-
£14.75. Spring Street (01608-
642350)

DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE Aladdin Glad-
iator Cobra stars in this pantom-
spectacular. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 17
Jan, £7.50-£14. Home Gardens
(01322-220000)

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
• THE BARBICAN: The Tempest
Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's
romantic drama. In rep tonight
7.15pm, 165 mins.

• THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen
Of Verona Shakespeare's witty com-
edy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep
tonight 7.15pm, ends 28 Jan. Bar-
bican Theatre, E5-E26. The Pit 211-
181.50. Barbican Centre, EC2
(0171-638 8891). BR/• Barbi-
can/Moorgate.

• SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER III
1970s musical featuring legendary
songs by the Bee Gees and starring
Adam Garcia. London Palladium
Argyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020)
• Pic: Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[4][7] 2.30pm, £10-£32.50,
135 mins.

• STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's revamped
hit-tech-musical. Apollo Vic-
toria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416
6070) BR/• Victoria. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, £12.50-
£30, 150 mins.

• THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Be-
linda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's
comedy Duchess Catherine Street,
WC2 (0171-447 5400) • Pic: Softbox.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 23
Jan, £15-£27.50, 140 mins.

• THE WEIR COON McPherson's
drama is set in Ireland and examines
ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal
Court Downstairs (at the Duke of
York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2
(0171-655 5000) • Pic: Softbox.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.30pm,
£5-£25, 90 mins.

• WEST SIDE STORY Brand new
production of Bernstein's classic
musical, attempting to recreate the
feel of the original Broadway hit.
Prince Edward Old Compton Street,
W1 (0171-447 5400) • Pic: Softbox.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm,
£15-£35, 160 mins.

• WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND
Lloyd Webber's new musical based
on the film of the same name about
two children who mistake an escaped
convict for Jesus. Aldwych Ald-
wych, WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc
0171-836 2428) • Holborn. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £10-
£32.50, 120 mins.

• THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Spooky detective version of Susan
Elliott's chilling ghost story. Fortune
Russell Street, WC2 (0171-836
2238/cc 0171-344 4444) • Covent
Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3]
11pm, [7] 4pm, £8.50-£23.50,
110 mins.

THEATRE
BEYOND THE WEST END

KING'S HEAD, ISLINGTON Song
at Twilight: Noel Coward's dark
autobiographical play is directed by
Shirley Storer and stars Con-
rad Bedgrave. Tonight 7.30pm, ends 24
Jan £12-£13, concs £7. Upper
Street, N1 (0171-226 1916)
• Angel/Highbury & Islington.

MONDAY RADIO

PICK OF THE DAY

EVERY MORNING this week, Philip Franks is reading from the first of H.E. Bates's various autobiographies. The Vanished World (9.45am R4). Mondays themselves represented a temporary reprieve in the harsh working lives of the novelist's shoe-making family; they joined the rush to the east Midlands countryside for a healthy spot of rabbiting, mushrooming and

illicit boxing. Although Franks's earnest delivery softens the gritty feel of these early childhood memories, the writing is soberly evocative. The new Book at Bedtime (10.45pm R4) is Nana, Emile Zola's portrait of a Parisian prostitute moving through the moral cesspit of Second Empire society. Juliet Stevenson (right) tucks us in.

DOMINIC CAVENTISH



1.00 Ruscoe and Co.
4.00 Drive.
7.00 News Extra.
7.30 Football Legends. Jimmy Armfield talks to some of the great footballers. 1. Kevin Keegan.
8.00 Trevor Brooking's Monday Match. Featuring full commentary on tonight's tie in the FA Cup third round.
10.00 Late Night Live. Nick Robinson sets tomorrow's agenda today. Including, at 10.30, a full round-up of the day's sport, and, at 11.00, a late news briefing.
1.00 Up All Night.
5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports.

CLASSIC FM (100.0-101.9MHz FM)
6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Concerto: Kabalevsky: Cello Concerto No 1, Marina Tarasova, Russian SO/Vershinina Dudorova. 3.00 Jamie Crichton. 5.30 Newsnight. 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 8.00 Evening Concert: Dvorak: String Quartet No 12 in F, Op 96. Chilingirian Quartet. Suk: Sere-nade for strings. London Chamber Orchestra/Christopher Warren-Green. Suk: Praha. Royal Liverpool Philharmonic/Libor Pesek. Smetana: Hakon Jarl. Bavarian RSO/Rafael Kubelik. Dvorsky: Silent Woods. Ofra Harnoy (cello). Prague SO/Charles Mackerras. 11.00 Alan Mann. 2.00 Concerto. 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

VIRGIN RADIO (25.197-26.0kHz MW 105.8MHz FM)
6.30 Chris Evans. 9.30 Bobby Hain. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Mark Forrest. 10.00 Janey Lee Grace. 1.00 James Merritt. 4.30 - 6.30 Jeremy Clark.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW)
1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Seven Days. 1.45 Wild Tales. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 On Screen. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Watershed. 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today.

TALK RADIO
6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Anna Rieburn. 4.00 Peter Dealey. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 6.00 James Whale. 1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

Ermondung. Op 14 No 3. Stanford: La belle dame sans merci. Brahms: Vergebliches Ständchen. Op 84 No 4. Strauss: Hat gesungen - bleibst nicht dabei. Op 36 No 3. Brahms: Sapphische Ode. Op 94 No 4. Wie rafft ich mich auf in der Nacht. Schoenberg: Verlassen, Op 6 No 4. Somerville: White in the Moon the Long Road Lies (A Shropshire Lad). Brahms: Abenddämmerung. Op 49 No 5.
10.45 Mixing It. Mark Russell and Robert Sandall present the final part of the "Mixing It" listeners' top ten albums of the year poll.
11.30 Jazz Notes.
12.00 Composer of the Week: Camille Saint-Saëns. (R)
1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 (92.4-94.6MHz FM)
6.00 Today.
9.00 NEWS: Start the Week.
9.45 Serial: The Vanished World. See Pick of the Day.
10.00 NEWS: Woman's Hour.
11.00 NEWS: Ben's Gallery.
11.30 My Gaiety Girls.
12.00 NEWS: You and Yours.
12.57 Weather.
1.00 The World at One.
1.30 Counterpoint.
2.00 NEWS: The Archers.
2.45 Afternoon Play: Enoch Arden.
3.00 NEWS: Money Box Live: 0171 580 4444.
3.30 The Melting Pot.
3.45 This Sceptred Isle.
4.00 NEWS: The Food Programme.

4.30 Turning World.
5.00 PM.
5.57 Weather.
6.00 Six O'Clock News.
6.30 The Story I Haven't a Clue.
7.00 NEWS: The Archers.
7.15 Front Row. The live, nightly arts programme, with reviews, news and interviews.
7.45 Under One Roof. The last of three dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories. As everyone faces chilly, hard-up January, Gillian and her family believe that when the going gets tough, the tough go shopping. With Janet Maw and Edna Dore. Director Marilyn Imlie (1/5).
8.00 NEWS: Dr Graham's School. Tim Jenkins visits a school in Bengal created to help the abandoned offspring of British tea planters, and he asks why Anglo-Indians endure in modern India.
9.00 Analysis. "More, Better, Nicer?" Why do some historians talk of a crisis of progress and the collapse of the powerful Western secular outlook of the last 200 years when there is now more money and leisure, better health and housing? Frances Cairncross asks what we mean by progress and whether we are still making any.
9.00 NEWS: Nature: Insight. Howard Staibford and leading scientists probe intriguing mysteries. Did birds evolve from dinosaurs? Do meteorites hold vital secrets? Does Antarctica conceal the origins of life on Earth?

9.30 Start the Week. Jeremy Paxman and his guests set the cultural agenda for the week.
10.00 The World Tonight. With Robin Lustig.
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Nana. Juliet Stevenson reads Emile Zola's colourful novel of the Parisian demi-monde, a powerful evocation of the corrupt world of the Second Empire that scandalised France on its original publication. See Pick of the Day (1/15).
11.00 Radio 4 Appeal. David Bellamy speaks on behalf of the Wildlife Trusts, a charity which benefits wildlife and nature conservation.
11.02 Cheese Makes You Dream.
11.30 Scaling the Mountain.
12.00 News.
12.30 The Late Book: The Re-strait of Beasts.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.30 Shipping Forecast.
5.40 Inshore Forecast.
5.45 Prayer for the Day.
5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today.

RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)
9.45 - 10.00 Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast. 12.00 - 7.00 Test Match Special.

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW)
6.00 Breakfast.
9.00 Nicky Campbell.
12.00 The Midday News.

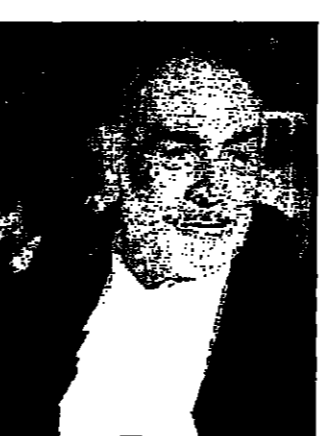
SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

SEAN CONNERY (right) once said: "I have always hated that damn James Bond. I'd like to kill him." For all that, the role of 007 was the making of the Scottish actor, who is now perhaps our leading light in Hollywood. Very unfairly, even as he approaches 70, he still regularly tops polls for the world's most fanciable man and is able to cherry-pick the projects he wants. He is profiled in today's Action Heroes (2.15pm Sky Moviemax).

Receiving its satellite premiere tonight, Albert Brooks's comedy-drama, Mother (8pm Sky Premier), centres on an author (Brooks) who can't seem to make marriage work. Thinking that his problems might be attributable to his awful relationship with his mother (Debbie Reynolds), he returns home to live with her and to try to work out where he is going wrong with women.

JAMES RAMPTON



May to December (994887). 2.40 The Comedy Alternative: It Ain't Hot, Mum (143755). 8.20 The Comedy Alternative: Yes, Minister (985322). 9.00 The Missing Postman (142591). 10.40 Best of Live at Jock Macra (985322). 11.45 The Bill (757471). 12.55 The Bill (937474). 12.45. Sponder (270582). 1.40 On the Line (857476). 2.30 Live at Jock Macra (937476). 2.55-7.00 Shopping (937476).

LIVING
6.00 Tiny and Crew (49910297). 6.20 Philbert the Frog (9896384). 6.30 Johnson and Friends (649400). 6.45 Tiny Tales (702877). 6.50 Polka Dot Shorts (702878). 7.00 Practical Parenting (939432). 7.05 Practical Parenting (939433). 7.30 Calou (939432). 7.35 Bug Alert (934612). 7.55 Practical Parenting (932778). 8.00 Barney and Friends (208907). 8.30 Tiny Tales (754327). 8.35 Tiny and Crew (939432). 8.50 Practical Parenting (939432). 9.00 Diet Show (204758). 9.30 The Roseanne Show (939434). 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show (939435). 10.30 Maury Povich (937475). 11.00 Brookside (934340). 12.00 Animal Rescue (7482365). 12.40 Rescue 911 (1374342). 1.00 Special Babies (2001891). 1.40 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (7676192). 2.50 LA Law (939437). The Jerry Springer Show (939435). 4.00 Michael Cole (145891). 4.50 Rolando (800542). 5.40 Ready, Steady, Cook (765758). 6.55 The Jerry Springer Show (174787). 7.05 Rescue 911 (429427). 7.35 Animal Rescue (934767). 8.00 Murder Call (765988). 9.00 Films: Maid to Order (937). 9.30 Sex Life Down Under (939435). 12.00 Close.

TNT
6.00 The Great Grueso (951) (4034792). 11.00 The Roaring Twenties (1939) (2132432). 1.00 Savage Messiah (1972) (2590476). 3.00 The Great Grueso (1931) (4003704). 5.00 Close.

PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL
7.00 Cuesless (758). 7.30 Desmond's (9297). 8.00 Roseanne (1278). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (939438). 9.00 Cylar (72704). 9.30 Serial 21043. 10.00 Frasier (93704). 10.30 Cheers (75452). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (94548). 11.30 The Larry Sanders Show (93458). 12.00 Late Night with David Letterman (77300). 1.00 Taxi (58124). 1.30 The Critic (9343). 2.00 Dr Katz (93501). 2.30 Soap (77308). 3.00 Wings (93893). 3.30-4.00 Nightstand (9336).

UK GOLD
7.00 Crossroads (939155). 7.30 Neighbours (941775). 7.55 EastEnders (72967). 8.30 The Bill (937568). 9.00 The Bill (937569). 9.30 The Bill (937570). 10.00 The Bill (937571). 10.30 The Bill (937572). 11.00 The Bill (937573). 11.30 The Bill (937574). 12.00 The Bill (937575). 12.30 The Bill (937576). 1.00 The Bill (937577). 1.30 The Bill (937578). 2.00 The Bill (937579). 2.30 The Bill (937580). 3.00 The Bill (937581). 3.30 The Bill (937582). 4.00 The Bill (937583). 4.30 The Bill (937584). 5.00 The Bill (937585). 5.30 The Bill (937586). 6.00 The Bill (937587). 6.30 The Bill (937588). 7.00 The Bill (937589). 7.30 The Bill (937590). 8.00 The Bill (937591). 8.30 The Bill (937592). 9.00 The Bill (937593). 9.30 The Bill (937594). 10.00 The Bill (937595). 10.30 The Bill (937596). 11.00 The Bill (937597). 11.30 The Bill (937598). 12.00 The Bill (937599). 12.30 The Bill (937600). 1.00 The Bill (937601). 1.30 The Bill (937602). 2.00 The Bill (937603). 2.30 The Bill (937604). 3.00 The Bill (937605). 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